Geoffrey

CHAUCER

THE CLERKES TALE

WITH LIFE, GRAMMAR, NOTES, AND AN
ETYMOLOGICAL GLOSSARY

W. & R. CHAMBERS
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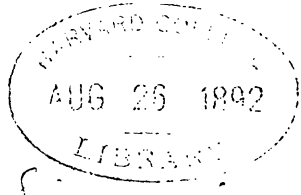

Go, little booke, ...
And kisse the steps whereas thou seest pace
Of Vergil, Ovid, Homer, Lucan, Stace;
And for there is so great diuersite
In English, and in writing of our tong,
So pray I to God, that none miswrite thee,
Ne thee mis-metre, for defaut of tong:
And redd wherso thou be or eles song,
That thou be understond, I God beseech.

CHAUCER, *Troilus and Creseide*, Bk. v., 1798–1810.

PREFACE.

THE importance of the study of Chaucer depends as much upon his being the first writer of a classical English, as upon his being the earliest of our greater English poets. The language which he used became the standard of literary English and the model for succeeding writers, nor did his influence die out until the age of the Tudors brought a new era to our language and literature. The modern historical study of English has restored Chaucer to the place he held with his contemporaries and successors, and has shown that the serious study of his poetry is the threshold to an intelligent knowledge of our mother tongue.

The present volume contains the *Clerkes Tale*, one of the earliest written as well as one of the finest in the series of the *Canterbury Tales*. It is an excellent example of Chaucer's style, and of that marvellous art in constructing a story which has made him—what he is still—our greatest narrative poet. As in our preceding edition of the *Squieres Tale*, the basis of the text is the Ellesmere MS. as printed by Mr Furnivall in his magnificent Six-Text Print for the Chaucer Society; but a few readings which seemed preferable have been adopted from the other five MSS., and more particularly from the Harleian MS. as printed by Dr Morris in the Aldine edition of Chaucer's works. A few unessential changes have been made in the orthography to prevent confusion, and to make the spelling more uniform; but these are so infrequent and inconsiderable, that the present text may be accepted as substantially a transcript of the MS. of the Ellesmere scribe. A Life of Chaucer, and a sketch of his Grammar, have been given, as well as a brief account of his Versification. The Notes attempt to deal with the difficulties in the text, and the Glossary gives the signification and etymology of the words, besides serving as an Index to the lines of the poem in which these words occur. An acknowledgment of indebtedness is due to the works of Dr Morris and Professor Skeat, especially to those of the latter, who has made the whole range of Middle English so peculiarly his own, and whose great *English Etymological Dictionary* marks an epoch in the scientific study of the English tongue.

CONTENTS.

THE LIFE OF CHAUCER.

1. **His Time.**—CHAUCER'S LIFE AND WORKS belong to one of the greatest epochs of English History. The Elizabethan period, when England was strong both at home and abroad, and when the English drama was at its best; and the present Victorian period, when there exists everywhere unexampled activity both in literature and in science—are the only two epochs that can be compared with it. His life lay within the reigns of Edward III., Richard II., and one year of Henry IV. In the reign of Edward III. the nation—which consisted of two elements, the Norman and the Saxon—grew into one people; and the language, which had been gradually absorbing as much Norman-French as it could hold, became the ready and powerful instrument of a new literature. The year 1362 marks an important point in the history of the English Language. For in that year Edward III. passed an act of parliament authorising the use of English instead of French in courts of law, in schools, and in other public places. This is sufficient proof that the nation had become truly English. In 1380, the Bible was translated into English by Wicliffe; and this translation had a permanent effect on the character of English prose. Moreover, great events of all kinds were lifting men's minds, enlarging their ideas, and inspiring their souls: the battles of Creçy (1346) and Poitiers (1356) had been fought; the art of weaving cloth was introduced from Flanders; Windsor Castle was growing into the most splendid pile in the west of Europe; gunpowder had lately been invented; Londoners had seen two kings, the king of Scotland and the king of France, prisoners in their capital; and everywhere new powers and new ideas were stirring throughout the kingdom. And then the time was quite ready to welcome the 'ditties and songës glad,' with which Chaucer 'fulfilled the land over all'* even in the flower of his youth.

2. **His Birth and Parentage.**—GEOFFREY CHAUCER was born

* Everywhere.

in the year 1340 in London. And he lived most of his life in London. Spenser, Ben Jonson, Milton, and other later writers were also Londoners. But London in the fourteenth century was not the vast province covered with houses—filled with smoke and harassed by unceasing noise—that London now is. It was a clean, quiet, almost noiseless city, full of shady gardens, every house different in character from every other, permeated by green lanes, and the short streets divided and refreshed by green fields. The quiet meadows were within a few minutes' walk of the very heart of the city. There were no cabs or carriages, no part of the endless grind and roar that now fill the main arteries of London; but the slow leisurely rumble of a market-cart intensified the sweet silence. It was, indeed, as Mr Morris says:

> London, small, and white, and clean;
> The clear Thames bordered by its gardens green.

You could hear the songs of the birds clear and thrilling in the streets; and the citizens had the English love of the country so thoroughly in their blood, that, on the morning of the First of May, they rose at daybreak, with songs in their mouths and in their hearts, to do honour to the coming summer, gathered boughs of blossoming hawthorn, and with it decked the doorways of their houses—so that each street smelt from end to end of the May, and thick bushes of green and white met the eye on every side.

> May, with all thy flourës and thy greenë,
> Welcome be thou, wel fairë fresschë May!

The streets did not swarm with people dressed in black, or in dull and dead colours; but there were here and there groups of persons dressed in bright red or yellow or green or blue and white, and sometimes the one half of a man's coat was of a different colour from that of the other side.

His father was John Chaucer, citizen and vintner of London. His grandfather was Richard Chaucer, also a vintner; and the name of *Chaucere* is said to be on the roll of Battle Abbey. John Chaucer's house was in Thames Street, on a stream called Walbrook*—because it flowed past London Wall—which rose in Finsbury Moor, beyond the street still called Moorgate, and flowed into the Thames near what is now Cannon Street. The

* There is still a street of this name.

boy went to school in the neighbourhood; and no doubt he sometimes helped his father in the wine-cellar, and filled the pots of the citizens with their daily supply of draught-wine. But Chaucer's father had a connection with the court of Edward III. He attended that king when he went with his Queen Philippa on an expedition to Flanders and Cologne; and it is to this connection that Geoffrey owed his appointment as page in the household of Elizabeth, the wife of Prince Lionel, the third son of Edward III. He was then seventeen. Young men in the time of Chaucer went either to the university, or entered the service of some nobleman as page. There they learned courtesy of manners, riding, the use of arms, and all that related to the life of a soldier, a nobleman, and a man of public affairs. There is also a tradition that Chaucer was a member of both of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge; but this is doubtful. His position in the household of Prince Lionel threw him into the society of the most distinguished men and women of the time; his imagination would be fired by the splendour of the court festivities; he would meet on frank and cordial terms the great statesmen and warriors and writers of the age.

3. **His Official Life.**—In the year 1359, Chaucer—then a young man of nineteen—joined the army of Edward III., which invaded France in November of that year. In this campaign Chaucer was made prisoner; but he was released under the Peace of Brétigny in 1360, when the king paid for him a ransom of £16. In the year 1367, he was appointed one of the 'valets of the king's chamber,' and is mentioned in the patent or commission as 'dilectus valettus noster.' He received, by the same patent, a pension of twenty marks* for life. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the fourth son of Edward, a man of exactly Chaucer's age, was his great friend and patron; and he remained true to Chaucer to the end of his days. When Blanche, the wife of John of Gaunt, died at the age of twenty-nine, Chaucer wrote a beautiful poem in her honour—'The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse.' Between the years 1370 and 1380, the poet was employed in seven diplomatic missions—some of them of great

* A mark is 13s. 4d. But there was little or no comparison between the buying power of money in Chaucer's time and now. A sheep sold for 2s. 6d.; a horse might be bought for 18s. 4d.; a chicken cost 2d.; and the price of a day's labour at the plough was 3d. Money must have gone, then, from ten to twenty times as far as it does now.

importance. In one of these he had to treat with the Doge of Genoa regarding the choice of an English port to which Genoese vessels might trade. There is a tradition that, while on this embassy, Chaucer had an interview with the great Italian poet Petrarch at a place called Arqua near Padua; and that Petrarch recited to him the story of the patient Griselda. But the tradition is doubtful; and Chaucer had Petrarch's works to read the story in. Soon after his return from the embassy, on St George's day—the 23d of April 1374—the king made him a grant of a daily pitcher of wine, to be received from the king's butler at the port of London. This grant was in 1378 commuted for an annual payment of twenty marks. In the same year he was appointed comptroller of the customs of wools, skins, and leather in the port of London; and a few days after this important appointment he received from John of Gaunt a pension of £10 a year for life as an acknowledgment of the services rendered by him and his wife Philippa to himself and his consort. Who Chaucer's wife Philippa was is not clearly made out. The ordinary tradition is that she was the daughter of a knight of Hainault, Sir Paon de Roët, king-of-arms of Guienne, and sister to Katharine, the widow of Sir Hugh Swynford, who afterwards became the wife of the Duke of Lancaster. In 1377, the last year of the reign of Edward III., Chaucer was employed along with Sir Thomas Percy (who was afterwards created Earl of Worcester) on a secret mission to Flanders; and in the same year he was sent on a mission, in company with two other distinguished knights, to treat of peace with Charles V., king of France. In 1378, the first year of Richard II.'s reign, Chaucer was again sent to France with the Earl of Huntingdon to arrange a marriage for Richard with the daughter of the king of France. In 1382, Chaucer was appointed comptroller of the petty customs, in addition to his previous comptrollership. By the terms of his first office, he had been bound down to make every entry in the Customs books with his own hand; but he was now allowed the privilege of employing a deputy. He would thus have more leisure for the writing of his CANTERBURY TALES, which seem to have occupied him at intervals between the years 1373 and 1400. The PROLOGUE is said to have been written while on a journey in the year 1388.

4 **His Later Life.**—Chaucer was in 1386 elected knight of the [illegible] M.P.—for the wealthy and beautiful county of Kent. during the nonage of Richard II. Chaucer's friend and

patron, John of Gaunt, was abroad; and his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, acted as regent of the kingdom. But the Duke of Gloucester hated every one who belonged to the party of his brother. Accordingly, on the 1st of December of this year, Chaucer was dismissed from both his offices. The poet was now reduced from affluence to poverty; and he was obliged to raise money by borrowing on the security of his two pensions. His wife died in the midst of Chaucer's greatest trouble, in 1387. It was in the following year, 1388, that Chaucer made his pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas à Becket, at Canterbury—a pilgrimage which supplied him with the frame for his great work, the Canterbury Tales. In the year 1389, Richard II., disgusted with the action of his council, suddenly dismissed them and took the reins of power into his own hands; the party of Lancaster was restored to favour, and with this turn of affairs Chaucer again rose into prosperous circumstances. He was appointed clerk of the works at Westminster and also at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. He, however, lost both these posts in 1391, and was for three years out of office. In 1394, he received a grant of £20 a year for life from the king; and it is believed that he was at this time in considerable distress from poverty and from failing health. John of Gaunt died in 1399, at the age of fifty-nine; and Chaucer was of exactly the same age. But Henry Bolingbroke, the son of the Duke of Lancaster, deposed Richard II. No doubt, Chaucer knew Henry well, and had often dandled him upon his knee when a little boy. A day or two after his coronation the poet sent him a quaint and humorous poem—'Complaynte of Chaucer to his Purse'—every verse of which ended with the line:

Beth hevy ageyne or ellës mote I dye.

And in another stanza he calls his purse the 'queen of comfort and good company:'

Quene of comfórt and goodë companye,
Beth hevy ageyne, or ellës moote I dye.

Within four days after Henry came to the throne, though he must have been over head and ears in work with the new affairs of the crown, he doubled Chaucer's pension of twenty marks; and the poet was again in comfort and security. On Christmas Eve 1399, he signed an agreement for the lease for fifty-three years of a house in the garden of the chapel

St Mary, Westminster. In this house he died on the 25th of October 1400.

5. **His Person and Works.**—Chaucer was a big stout man with a fair face and small features. A shy and silent man, he was given to observation of others and meditation, to hard study at nights, and to recording in his books and poems the fruits of 'the harvest of a quiet eye.' There were two things that Chaucer was heart-wholly fond of—study and nature. After coming home from his hard work at the Custom-house—work, as we have said, every part of which required his own special attention, instead of rest and amusement, he sat over his books till midnight, until his eyes were 'dased' with his reading and the dull light of his lamp. Year in, year out, he was always at his books. But, when the month of May came, and nature was overflowing with joy and music, he shut his books and went out into the fields to spend the day in the open air and sunshine, among flowers and trees, and green grass and singing birds. He says in his *Legende of Good Women:*

> Save, certeynly, whan that the monethe of May
> Is comen, and that I here the foulës syngë
> And that the flourës gynnen for to spryngë,
> Fairwel my boke, and my devocioun!

And, when he found himself there, great tides of joy and cheerfulness swept through his heart; and such lines as these broke from his lips with happy power:

> Herkneth these blisful briddës how they syngë,
> And seth the fresschë flourës how they spryngë;
> Ful is myn hert of revel and solás! *

He is one of the best story-tellers that ever lived. He knew the weak points and the strong points of men and women; and he looked upon their weaknesses with a humorous and kindly eye. He did not apportion his respect for men and women according to their rank, but saw quite clearly that *gentilesse* or *genterye* is a quality of soul and character and not of rank or possession. And he uses one of the simplest but one of the most beautiful similes in all literature to clench his meaning:

> Tak fuyr and ber it in[1] the derkest hous
> Bitwixë this and the mount Caukasóus,
> And lat men[2] shut the dorës and go thennë,[3]

* Nonne Prestës Tale, 380—382.

[1] Into. [2] One. [3] Thence or away.

Yit wol the fuyr as faire and lightë brennë
As[1] twenty thousand men might it biholde;
His[2] office naturel ay wol it holde,
Up[3] peril of my lif, til that I dye.
Her may ye se wel, how that genterye
Is nought[4] annexid to possessïoun,
Sithin[5] folk doon her operacïoun
Alway, as doth the fuyr, lo! in his kynde!

The early literary works of Chaucer were translations from Latin, French, and Italian; and by these translations he became widely known. One of his contemporaries speaks of him as 'grant translateur, noble Geoffroi Chaucier.' But the work of translation could not satisfy a full and original mind like Chaucer's. We find him in 1369 writing 'The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse;' in 1373, the 'Lyfe of Ste. Cecile;' in 1382, 'Troylus and Creseide;' in 1384, his 'Hous of Fame;' and in 1386, his 'Legende of Goode Women.' But his greatest work —and the work which gives him his high place in English Literature—is the Canterbury Tales.

6. **The Canterbury Tales.**—The Canterbury Tales is a kind of national epic of the fourteenth century. The framework of these tales—which is given in the Prologue—is of a quite simple and old-fashioned kind. Dickens, in his Christmas stories, imagines a set of travellers snowed up in a wayside inn, or in an open boat after shipwreck on a stormy sea; and the company, tied to each other by the bond of a common misfortune, and with a good deal of blank time on their hands, bring forgetfulness of sorrow by the recital of stories in turn. Boccaccio, in his *Decameron*, or Book of the Ten Days, presents to us a company of ladies and gentlemen who have fled from the Plague in Florence, in 1348, to a country-house, where they shut themselves up and amuse each other with stories. Mr William Morris, the poet, employs a like device in his 'Earthly Paradise.' Chaucer's are open-air tales; and he imagines them to be told on horseback by pilgrims to the shrine of Thomas à Becket, as they amble easily along the green lanes which were then the only roads between London and Canterbury. One evening in April, nine-and-twenty pilgrims meet in Southwark, which was then a large country village on the Surrey side of London Bridge. They put up at the well-known Tabard Inn in the High Street. After dinner, when the 'reckonyngs' had been made, and the men were merry

[1] As if. [2] Its. [3] Upon. [4] Not. [5] Since.

over their wine, Harry Bailey, the host, a 'large man' with bright eyes and frank bold speech, proposes that they should all ride together to Canterbury; robbers were always about, and the roads were never very safe; and that each pilgrim should tell two tales going and two returning. There were in all thirty-two pilgrims, for they were joined on the way by three more; and this would have made one hundred and twenty-eight tales in all. Only four-and-twenty remain to us. The Prologue tells the story of their meeting, and of Harry Bailey's proposal; and it also gives a detailed description of the appearance, dress, manners, and character of each of the motley collection of pilgrims. The Church is numerously represented; and no doubt Chaucer meant to seize the opportunity of exposing the vices and corruptions of the new state of ecclesiasticism in England. The form of the drama had neither been invented in nor imported into England in the fourteenth century; had it been, there is little doubt that so sympathetic, observant, and many-sided a man as Chaucer would have availed himself of it. But, even as his poetry is, Mr Marsh is right in saying that 'Chaucer may fairly be said to be not only the earliest dramatic genius of modern Europe, but to have been a dramatist before that which is technically known as the existing drama was invented.'

CHAUCER'S GRAMMAR.

The Grammar and the Vocabulary of English.—The chief stages of the English language are three, namely: **Anglo-Saxon,** from the earliest times of which we have any records to about 1150 A.D.; **Middle English,** from that time to about 1500; and **Modern English,** from 1500 to the present day. The vocabulary of Anglo-Saxon is almost free from foreign admixture; the Middle English contains a large number of Norman-French words; while the modern English has borrowed words from numerous sources. As regards grammar, the Anglo-Saxon is distinguished by its full and numerous inflections, its use of various genders for inanimate objects, its full declension of the definite article, and the like; modern English is remarkable for its almost total lack of inflections, and its entire disregard of *grammatical* gender; while Middle English holds the inter-

mediate position, preserving many inflections in a weakened form, and retaining genders only in a very few instances, as when, for example, the *sun* is regarded as being feminine.

Of Middle English, there were three well-marked varieties or dialects: (1) **Northern** or **Northumbrian**, including what is now called Lowland Scotch; (2) **Midland**, chiefly in use between the Humber and Thames; and (3) **Southern**, chiefly to the south of the Thames. The Midland dialect is that which finally prevailed, and to which modern literary English is most nearly related.

The most convenient tests of difference between these three dialects are these: (*a*) The Southern dialect employs *-eth*; the Midland, *-en*; the Northern, *-es*, for all forms of the present plural indicative.

(*b*) The Southern and Midland dialects have *-eth* in the plural imperative; the Northern has *-es*.

The Midland dialect between the Thames and the Humber covered a large area, and had various local varieties. The most marked of these were: (1) the **Eastern Midland**, spoken in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, with many words and grammatical forms in common with the Northern dialect; (2) the **West Midland**, spoken in Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, Cheshire, and Shropshire. Of these the more important was the East Midland, and it was this that became the standard literary English from which has come in a direct line, with but few flectional changes, the English language spoken and written at the present day. As early as the thirteenth century, it had thrown off most of the older inflections, and had fitted itself to become a national language. Among its writers were Ormin, Robert of Brunne, Wicliffe, Gower, and Chaucer. It was Chaucer's influence especially, that caused the East Midland speech to supersede the other dialects, and it is the grammar of this dialect that we must now learn.

NOUNS.

1. **Number.**—(*a*) The nominative plural usually ends in *ës*:

Fro foulës and fro bestës for to saue (line 683).

Many nouns ending in a liquid or dental letter (*l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, and *d*, *t*, *th*), as well as most words of more than one syllable, take *-s* only.

In the oldest English there were several plural suffixes, *-as*, *-an*, *-a*, *-u* (*-o*), of which the most common was *-an*. After the Norman Conquest, these were reduced (in the thirteenth century)

to *-es* and *-en*, and finally the termination *-es* or *-s* became the ordinary sign of the plural. It was words of French origin that were the first to thrust out the *e*, and adopt the simple suffix *-s* or *-z*. Cf. *iugementz* (line 439), *subgetz* (line 482). Some MSS. of Chaucer give *is* and *us* for the nom. plural; but this is due, no doubt, to the dialect of the scribe who copied, as it is not likely he would be careful to note Chaucer's forms of the plural.

(*b*) Chaucer here and there retains the plural in *en*—a refined form of the old plural in *an*. Thus he has *assen*, *been* (bees), *eyen* (cf. N. E. or Scotch *een*), *flon* (arrows), *schoon*, and *ton* or *toon* (toes). This plural still survives in the Dorset dialect; and in Mr Barnes's Dorsetshire poems it is a great assistance to the rhythm and metre. Thus Mr Barnes has *housen*, *shoon*, *nesten*, and *fisten*. *En* is still the chief plural ending in West Friesic.

(*c*) We also find instances of double plurals. The only two in modern English are *brethren* and *children*. The oldest English or Anglo-Saxon plural of *brother* was *brothru*, and of *cild*, *cildru*. *Brothru* became *brothr-e*, *brethre* (*brether*), and finally *brothren*, *brethren;* while *cild-r-u* became *child-r-e* (and *childer*), and finally *child-r-en* (and *childern*). Similar double plurals in Chaucer are *doughtren* (A.S. *dohtru*, later E. *dohtre*), *sistren*, *sustren* (A.S. *sweostru*, later E. *swustre*), *fon* or *foon*, foes (A.S. *fá*), and *kine* (A.S. *cy*, pl. of *cú*). The forms *brether*, *childer*, and *kye* are still preserved in northern dialects. In *kine* the plural has been formed by vowel change, thus, A.S. *cú*, pl. *cy* = *ki* (*-ne*). The chief vowel changes are *a* of the sing. into *e* of the pl., *oo* into *ee*, and *ou* into *i*. Thus are formed our plurals *men*, *geese*, *feet*, *teeth*, *mice*, and *lice*, from *man*, *goose*, *foot*, *tooth*, *mouse*, and *louse*.

(*d*) Many neuter nouns had no plural ending; and we still have survivals of this in *sheep*, *deer*, *swine*, *night* (in *se'ennight* = seven nights, and *fortnight* = fourteen nights), *stone* (used as a weight), *score*, and others. So in the oldest periods of English, *year*, *winter*, and *freond* are used as plurals. See line 610, etc.

2. **Case-endings.**—(*a*) The genitive singular generally ends in *ës;* thus, line 291:

> Bisyde the threshfold, in an ox*es* stalle.

-ddes (line 7), *emperoures* (line 168), *lordes* (line 294), etc. distinct syllable in early English, and traces of this

form occur in Elizabethan writers. Cf. Spenser's *Faërie Queene* I. v. 50:

. . . . That with stroke
Of aspës sting herself did stoutly kill;

and Shakspeare's *Love's Labour 's Lost*, V. ii. 332:

To show his teeth as white as whalës bone.

It should be noticed that the ' is not the *sign* of the genitive or possessive case in modern English, but simply marks the elision of an *e*—a usage which in the eighteenth century was extended to verbs, as we find in Addison *walk'd*, *stretch'd*, etc. The general use of the apostrophe in the singular is not found much before the end of the seventeenth century. It was probably intended to distinguish the possessive case from the plural number. Its use may have been established from a false theory of the origin of the suffix *-s* which long prevailed, namely, that it was a contraction of *his;* hence such expressions as, 'For Jesus Christ *his* sake' (*Prayer-Book*). This corruption occurs towards the close of the fourteenth century. Thus Trevisa has 'egle hys nest' = eagle's nest.

In the oldest English there were various declensions, as in Greek and Latin, and different genitive suffixes for the singular and plural. The oldest suffixes for the singular were *-es* (*smith-es* = smith's), *-an* (*steorr-an* = star's), *-e* (*rod-e* = rood's), *-a* (*sun-a* = son's). For the plural they were *-a* (*smitha* = smiths'), *-ena* (*steorr-ena* = stars'). In the thirteenth century the suffixes of the genitive in the singular were *-es* and *-e;* in the plural *-ene* (*-en*), *-e*, and the modern form *-es*, which often replaced the others. In the fourteenth century *-es* (*-s*) is the ordinary suffix for both singular and plural. The suffix *-en*, *-ene* is found as late as 1387 (cf. *wycchen tongues* = tongues of witches), but is very uncommon in Chaucer.

(*b*) Some nouns have no genitive ending at all. These were feminine nouns, whose oldest genitive was *an*, which was broken down into *ë*, and then disappeared. Thus Chaucer has *lady veil*, *sonnë upriste* (the uprising of the sun), and *widow sone*. We find survivals of this genitive in *hell fire*, *Ladykirk*, and *Ladyday* (= the day of the Virgin Mary). In like manner, *fader*, *brother*, and *doughter* took no inflexion for the genitive singular; see *doughter* (line 608), and *fader* (line 1135).

(*c*) The dative singular ends in *ë;* but it is rare. The prepositions *for*, *at*, *on* (or *up-on*), *by*, *in*, *of*, *to* (or *un-to*), and *from* govern the dative case in Anglo-Saxon, and may be consider

as always governing a dative in Chaucer. Cf. lines 4, 29, 66, 191, 398, etc.

ADJECTIVES.

Remnants of Inflexions.—Adjectives were inflected in the oldest English (or 'Anglo-Saxon') just as German adjectives are inflected now. They had a definite form and an indefinite form (cf. *guter Mann* and *der gute Mann*). The definite form—which is preceded by the definite article, or a demonstrative pronoun, or a possessive pronoun—has an *ë* in all cases of the singular, as 'the godë man.' The plural is also denoted by a final *e*, as 'godë frendes.' The *e* is often dropped towards the end of the fourteenth century. In Chaucer it disappears in words of more than one syllable, as 'mortal batailles.'

Comparison.—The comparative degree is formed, as now, by the addition of *er*. But we find also *re*, a remnant of an older *ra*. Thus we have *derrë*, *nerrë*, *ferrë*, *herrë*, for *dearer*, *nearer*, *farther*, and *higher*. *Bet* and *mo* are contractions for *bettre* and *mara*. The superlative degree ends in *este*. Chaucer has *hext* (= *highest*) on the model of *next* (= *nighest*).

PRONOUNS.

1. **Personal Pronouns:**

First Person.

	Singular.		Plural.	
	Mid. Eng.	*Anglo-Saxon.*	*Mid. Eng.*	*Anglo-Saxon.*
Nom.	I, ich, ik.	ic.	we.	wé.
Gen.	min, myn.	mín.	our, oure.	úre (úser).
Dat.	me.	mé.	us.	ús.
Acc.	me.	mé (mec).	us.	ús (úsic).

Second Person.

	Singular.		Plural.	
	Mid. Eng.	*Anglo-Saxon.*	*Mid. Eng.*	*Anglo-Saxon.*
Nom.	thou, thow.	thú.	ye.	gé.
Gen.	thin, thyn.	thín.	your, youre.	eówer.
Dat.	the, thee.	thé.	you, yow.	eów.
Acc.	the, thee.	thé (thec).	you, yhou.	eów (eówic).

Third Person.

MIDDLE ENGLISH FORMS.

	Singular.			Plural.
	Masc.	*Fem.*	*Neut.*	
Nom.	he,	she,	hit, it.	thei, they.
Gen.	his,	hir, hire,	his.	her, here, hior.
Dat.	him,	hir, hire,	hit, it.	hem.
Acc.	him (hine),	hir, hire.	hit, it.	hem.

OLDEST ENGLISH OR ANGLO-SAXON FORMS.

	Singular.			Plural.
	Masc.	*Fem.*	*Neut.*	
Nom.	hé,	heó,	hit.	hí, hig.
Gen.	his,	hire,	his.	hira.
Dat.	him,	hire,	him.	him.
Acc.	hine,	hí,	it.	hi, hig.

The pronoun *thow* is sometimes incorporated with the verb, as *schaltow, wiltow, seistow.* Cf. also *maystow* (line 265), *wostow* (line 325).

2. **Adjective or Possessive Pronouns.**—These were formed from the genitive case of the personal pronouns, and were declined like ordinary adjectives.

3. **Independent or Absolute Possessives.**—*Min* (plural *mine*), *our, oures,* ours; *thin* (plural *thine*); *your, youres,* yours; *hir, heres,* hers; *her, heres,* theirs, are employed predicatively, without a following noun. The forms *hers, ours, yours, theirs,* are really double genitives containing a plural suffix *r* + a singular suffix *-s.* These forms were mostly confined during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to the northern dialects, and are probably due to Scandinavian influence.

4. **Demonstrative Pronouns.**—(*a*) The definite article *the* is used without inflexion in all cases, singular and plural. The old plural *tho* (A.S. *tha*) is still, however, occasionally used by Chaucer, but more often it is equivalent to *those.*

(*b*) The form *attĕ* = at the (A.S. *at tham*), occurs as in the well-known line: 'After the schole of Stratford *atte* Bow.' See also lines 130, 547, 749.

(*c*) The plural of *this* is *thise, thes, these.*

(*d*) *Thilkĕ* = that, the like. (A.S. *thylc, thylic*; from *thy,* instrumental case of *se, seo, thaet,* and *lic,* like.) See lines 197 and 892.

(*e*) *Swich* = such; A.S. *swylc,* literally 'so-like.'

5. **Interrogative Pronouns.**—These are *who* (genitive *whos*; dative and accusative *whom*), *which,* and *what.*

(*a*) **What** is often used for *why,* like the N. E. or Scotch *what for?* Cf. line 383:

Of hir array *what* sholde I make a tale?

(*b*) *Which* has often the sense of *what, what sort of.* It is used of either gender.

6. **Relative Pronouns.**—In our language in its oldest period,

who, *which*, and *what* were not relative but interrogative pronouns; *whose* and *whom* were established as relatives as early as the thirteenth century; but *who* was much later in getting a relative force, and did not come into common use before the end of the sixteenth century.

(*a*) *That* was the ordinary relative in the fourteenth century. It began during the twelfth century to take the place of the indeclinable relative *the*.

(*b*) *That* is often used with the personal pronouns; thus, *that he* = who; *that his* = whose; *that him* = whom.

(*c*) *Which that* = who (line 205); *the whiche* = who (line 269); *what that* = whatsoever (line 165); *what man that* = whoever.

7. **Indefinite Pronouns.**—*Me* and *men* (broken down from *man*) are used for one, like the French *on*.

VERBS.

Verbs are classified, according to their mode of expressing the past tense, into **strong** and **weak** verbs. **Strong Verbs** form their past tense by change of the root vowel; nothing is added to the root; **Weak Verbs** form their past tense by adding *-ede* (*-de*, *-te*) to the root of the present. The final *e* often drops off, leaving the suffix *-ed* as the tense-sign.

I. REGULAR OR WEAK VERBS.

INDICATIVE MOOD.

PRESENT TENSE.

Singular.	*Plural.*
1. I lovĕ.	We loven, lovĕ.
2. Thou lovest.	Ye loven, lovĕ.
3. He loveth.	They loven, lovĕ.

PAST TENSE.

Singular	*Plural.*
1. I lovede.	We loveden, lovede.
2. Thou lovedest.	Ye loveden, lovede.
3. He lovede.	They loveden, lovede.

Properly speaking, the past tense is formed only by the suffix *-de*, the *e* in *-ede* being the connecting vowel which joins the tense-suffix to the base. In a few verbs with a long radical vowel this connecting vowel disappears, and *-de* or *-te* only is added to the base, as in *kepen, kepte; deme, demde*. Some few weak verbs admit of a change of vowel in the past tense, as *delen, dalte; leden, ladde; leven, lafte*. If the root ends in *d* or *t*,

preceded by another consonant, *e* only is added, as in *senden, sent(e)*; *wenden, went(e)*.

II. IRREGULAR OR STRONG VERBS.

Strong verbs differ from weak verbs in *not adding* any tense-suffix, the past tense being formed by vowel-change, while the past participle ends in *-en* (and by loss of *n*, in *-e*), as *holde, held, iholden, holde; sterven, starf, storven* or *storve*.

(*a*) Some strong verbs are inflected like weak verbs, and show double forms in their past tenses, as *sleep* and *slep-te; weep* and *wep-te*.

(*b*) Many verbs admit of a distinct vowel-change for the past-tense plural, as *sterven*, to die, past singular *starf*, past plural *storven; binden*, to bind, past singular *band*, past plural *bunden; write*, to write, past singular *wrat*, past plural *writen*. The second person singular had also this vowel-change, as *thou bunde*, etc.

(*c*) The first and third persons of the past indicative have no personal suffixes. That of the second person was originally *-e*, but *-est* often replaces it in verbs of the fourteenth century. Hence the conjugation of the past tense is as follows:

Singular.	*Plural.*
1. held (I held).	held-en (we held).
2. helde (thou heldest).	held-en (ye held).
3. held (he held).	held-en (they held).

Both strong and weak verbs (when the stem ends in *-t, -d, -nd, -s*) have in the third person singular present indicative *-t* for *-teth* or *-deth*, or even *-eth*, as *halt = holdeth; rit = rideth; sent = sendeth; rist = riseth; bit = biddeth; hit = hideth*.

Subjunctive Mood.—In the present subjunctive, through all persons, the singular ends in *-e*, and the plural in *-en*; in the past, in *-ede, -de, -te*, plural in *-eden, -den, -ten*.

Imperative Mood.—(*a*) The singular usually ends in *-e* in the case of verbs conjugated like *loven*, as *love thou*. All other verbs have no final *-e*.

(*b*) The plural terminates usually in *-eth* or *-th*, though the *-th* is often dropped.

Infinitive Mood.—(*a*) The Infinitive ends in *-en* or *-e*. The *-n* began to drop off in the Southern English dialect in the fourteenth century. See lines 13, 14, 52, 75, 99, etc.

(*b*) The gerundial infinitive, or dative case of the infinitive

(preceded by *to*) is used to express purpose. In Old English this dative had the suffix *-e*, and was governed by the preposition *to* (as *tó witanne*, to know, our 'to wit'). This *e* remains in M. E., but has dropped off in modern English, which retains the construction, without the inflectional mark, as in 'I came *to tell* you,' 'this house is *to let*.' See lines 76, 81, 211, 683.

Participles.—(*a*) The present participle ends generally in *ing*. The present part. of the southern dialect ended in *inde*, *ende*, corresponding to the form *-ande*, which was retained in the northern dialects to a late period (Spenser has *glitterand* and *trenchand*). The modern form in *-ing* began to arise in the southern dialects in the latter part of the twelfth century. The change of *-inde* to *-ing* has caused great confusion between verbal nouns in *-ing* (O. E. *-ung*) and participles in *-ing*.

(*b*) Weak verbs had their past participle in *ed* or *d*; strong verbs in *en* or *e* (the *n* having fallen away, as still happens in the Rhine country. Examples of the past participle in *-e* occur in lines 146, 214, 310, 1158, etc.

(*c*) The prefix *y-* or *i-* (A.S. *ge*) is frequent before the past participle. See lines 158, 213, 381, 771, etc.

Defective Verbs.

The principal of these are *ben*, *been*, to be; *conne*, to know, to be able; *daren*, to dare; *may*; *mot*; *owen*, to owe; *schal*; *thar*, need; *witen*, to know; and *wil*. They are thus declined:

PRES. INDIC.

Sing.	*Plur.*
1. Am.	Beon, ben, aren, *or* are.
2. Art.	
3. Beth *or* is.	

Past tense, 1st and 3d, was; 2d, were.
Beth in the imperat. pl.; and ben (been) in the past part.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Can (I know).	Connen, conne.
2. Canst, can.	
3. Can.	

Past tense, 1st and 3d, couthe; past part. couth, coud.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Dar (dare).	Dar *or* dorre.
2. Darst.	
3. Dar.	

Past tense, dorste, durste.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Mow *or* may. Mowe *or* mowen.
2. Mayst *or* maist.
3. May.

Past tense, 1st and 3d, mighte, moghte.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Mot *or* moot (must). Mooten *or* moote.
2. Must *or* moot.
3. Mot *or* moot.

Past tense, moste.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Schal. Schullen *or* schul.
2. Schalt.
3. Schal.

Past tense, schulde and scholde.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Wat *or* wot. Witen, wite, *or* woote.
2. Wost.
3. Wat *or* wot.

Past tense, wiste.

PRES. INDIC.

1. Wil, wol, wille. Woln, willen *or* wille.
2. Wilt *or* wolt.
3. Wile, wol, wille.

Past tense, wolde.

The O. E. negative *ne* combines with verbs as follows:

Nam	for ne am.	Nil, Nille	for ne will.*
Nis	" ne is.	Noldë	" ne woldë.
Nas	" ne was.	Not	" ne wot.
Nere	" ne were.	Nost	" ne wost.
Nath	" ne hath.	Niste	" ne wiste.
Nadde	" ne had.	Nisten	" ne wisten.

* Cf. the phrase *Nilly willy* (= *nill he, will he*).

ADVERBS.

(*a*) These are formed from adjectives by adding *-e* to the positive degree, as *soth, sooth*, true; *sothe, soothe*, truly.

(*b*) Adverbs that now end in *-ly* formerly ended in *-liche* (-like). Several have *e* before *ly*, as *boldely, softely, trewely.*

(*c*) Many adverbs are cases of nouns and adjectives—genitive, as *needes, whiles, twies;* dative, as *hwil-um*, from *whil* = time; *seld-um*, from *seld* = rare; accusative, *alway*, from *ealne weg.*

(*d*) Adverbs occur in *-en* and *-e*, as *biforn, bifore; withouten,*

withoute. Many have dropped the form in *-n*, as *asondre, biyonde; henne, thenne.*

(*e*) Adverbs in *-es* are either *genitives*, as *needes*, &c.; or the *-es* corresponds to *-e*, *-an*, or *-a*, as *unnethes* (A.S. *uneáthe*), *bysides* (A.S. *besidan*); to *-e* or *-en* as *hennes* (A.S. *heonnan*), *thennes* (A.S. *thanan*); or to *-st*, as in *agaynes*, **ayens** (A.S. *ageán*).

(*f*) Many adverbs arise in prepositional forms, as, *of-newe* = newly, *on-sleep* = asleep.

Negative Adverbs.—Two negatives in Chaucer's usage do not make an affirmative.

PREPOSITIONS.—*Till* is used in M. E. as a sign of the infinitive; it formed numerous compounds, as *intil* = into. It first made its appearance as a preposition in the northern dialect. *Endelong* = down along (A.S. *andlang*).

CONJUNCTIONS.—*Ne* .... *ne* = neither .... nor; *other* = or, *other* .... *other* = either .... or; *what* .... *and* = both .... and.

CHAUCER'S VERSIFICATION.

1. **The Measure.**—Almost every poem in the *Canterbury Tales* is written in the measure called Rimed Iambic Pentameter. Each line contains five 'feet,' and in each foot there are two syllables, the first being unaccented. When this kind of verse is unrimed, it is called blank verse; when it is rimed, heroic verse. In either form, it is by far the most usual kind of English verse. The *Clerkes Tale* is written in stanzas of seven lines of heroics, with three rimes, the first two alternating in a quatrain, the rime of the fourth line repeated in the fifth, and the third rime forming the sixth and seventh lines into a couplet. Chaucer borrowed this form from the French, and it became his favourite stanza. The rime may be expressed by the formula *a b a b b c c*, by which is meant that the first and third lines rime together, as denoted by *a a*; the second, fourth, and fifth lines rime together, as denoted by *b b b*; and the last two, *c c*. In England, it was afterwards called *rime royal*, from its use not many years after the death of Chaucer by King James I. of Scotland, as the measure of the *King's Quhair*.

2. Trisyllabic measures sometimes occur owing to the rapid pronunciation of some syllable. The chief syllables thus slurred

over are: final *y*, *-es*, *-er*, *-ie*, *-en*, *-ed*, and *-e*. In many cases *e* occurring in the middle of a word is similarly slurred over, as in *euery* (line 595), namely (line 626 and 934), remenant (line 869), reuerently (line 952), etc.

3. Chaucer is fond of having eleven syllables in his line. Of course the additional syllable is unaccented. Were it accented, there would be six accents in the verse, and the line would be a hexameter. This additional unaccented syllable is generally at the end, and makes what is called a *feminine rime*. See lines 104 and 105, 182 and 183, 258 and 259, and the whole *Envoy*, lines 1177–1212, with its thirty-six consecutive rimes of this kind.

4. A final vowel is often elided or run on into a following one. The vowel with which this happens most frequently is *ë*. See lines 411, 433, etc.

5. A word adopted by Chaucer from the Norman-French may have the French accent, or it may have the English accent. (The tendency of the English accent is to go as far back—as near the beginning of a word as possible; and it sometimes, in pursuit of this, invades a mere prefix—as in *péremptory*, *míscellany*.) Thus Chaucer makes no scruple about giving us *mírour* and *mirôur*; *róial* and *roiâl*; *lêon* and *leôun*; *hónour* and *honoûr*.

Some words of French origin are pronounced as in modern French; thus *humble* (line 603), *stable* (line 663), *possible* (line 956), *tendre* (line 1093), are pronounced *humbl'*, *stabl'*, *possibl'*, *tendr'*.

6. The final *ë*, as in French verse, may be sounded or not, as the verse demands.

(i.) In words of **Anglo-Saxon** origin it represents one of the **final vowels a, u, e**, and is thus essential. Thus *sonne*, the sun, from A.S. *sunne* (392), *knaue* from A.S. *cnafa* (444). It may represent also a **Latin** termination, as diademe, from Lat. *diadema*.

(ii.) It is also a remnant of various **grammatical inflections**.

(*a*) It represents the **dative** case in **nouns**; as stalle (lines 207 and 291), feste (line 191), birthe (line 402), lappe (line 585), etc.

(*b*) In **adjectives** it marks (1) the **definite** form of the adjective (that is, that form of the adjective which is preceded by *the*, *this*, *that*, or a *possessive pronoun*), as in the yonge (line 77), olde poure (line 222), newe (line 841), etc.; (2) the **plural** of adjectives, as alle (line 38 and 188), olde (61),

wyse (line 116); (3) the **vocative** case of adjectives, as, O goode god! (line 852), O tendre, o dere, o yonge children myne (line 1093).

(*c*) In **verbs**, final *e* is a sign:

(1) Of the **Infinitive** mood, as to wepe (line 13), wyue (line 140), worshipe (line 166), deye (line 364), etc.

(2) Of the **Gerundial Infinitive**, as to blame (line 76), to hauke and hunte (line 81), to speke (line 211), to saue (line 683), to doone (line 99).

(3) Of the **past participles** of **strong** verbs, as bore (line 401), y'bore (lines 158 and 443), swore (line 403).

(4) Of the **past tense** of **weak** verbs, as hadde (line 303), highte (line 210), *preyde* (line 548).

(5) Of the **Subjunctive** mood, as leste (105), were (line 850).

(6) Of the **Imperative** mood, as telle (line 15), keepe (line 17), etc.

(*d*) In **adverbs**, the final *e* represents—

(1) An **older vowel ending**, as soone (line 277), A.S. *sōna*.

(2) It is the **characteristic ending** of the **adverb** as distinguished from the adjective, as stille (line 293), newe (line 3), bryghte (line 1117).

(3) It represents an **Anglo-Saxon ending -an**, as aboute, from A.S. *ábútan*; above, from A.S. *ábúfan*.

(4) It is a **distinct syllable** in **adverbs** ending in **ely**, as trewely (line 53), poureliche (line 213), richely (line 267).

(iii.) It is sometimes **superfluous**, having crept into the word, as in *bitwixe* from Anglo-Saxon *betwux*; *quene*, from A.S. *cwén*; *childe*, from A.S. *cild*. Final *e* is usually written in the personal pronouns, as oure, youre, hire, here, hise, and in this case is silent. It is silent also where it occurs in words of more than one syllable, and in words of Romance origin. See, however, excellentë (*Squieres Tale*, line 145).

7. Besides, in the case of being followed by a word beginning with a vowel, final *e* is elided before some few words beginning with *h*, as *he*, *his*, *him*, *hem*, *hir*, *hath*, *hadde*, *have*, *her*, etc. In all other cases *h* is considered as a consonant.

8. The syllables *-en*, *-er*, *-eth*, *-el*, and *-ow* are often contracted or slurred over in pronunciation. Cf. lines 134, 376, 426, 627, etc.

THE CLERKES TALE.

'Sir clerk of Oxenford,' our hoste sayde,
'Ye ryde as coy and stille as dooth a mayde,
Were newe spoused, sitting at the bord;
This day ne herde I of your tonge a word.
I trowe ye studie aboute som sophyme,
But Salomon seith, "euery thing hath tyme."
For goddes sake, as beth of bettre chere,
It is no tyme for to studien here.
Telle vs som merie tale, by your fey;
For what man that is entred in a pley,
He nedes moot vnto the pley assente.
But precheth nat, as freres doon in lente,
To make vs for our olde synnes wepe,
Ne that thy tale make vs nat to slepe.
Telle vs som merie thing of auentures;—
Your termes, your colours, and your figures,
Keepe hem in stoor til so be ye endite
Hy style, as whan that men to kinges write.
Speketh so pleyn at this tyme, we yow preye,
That we may vnderstonde what ye seye.'
This worthy clerk benignely answerde,
'Hoste,' quod he, 'I am vnder your yerde;

Ye han of vs as now the gouernaunce,
And therfor wol I do yow obeisaunce,
As fer as reson axeth, hardily.
I wol yow telle a tale which that I
Lerned at Padowe of a worthy clerk,
As preued by his wordes and his werk.
He is now deed and nailed in his cheste,
I prey to god so yiue his soule reste!
  Fraunceys Petrark, the laureat poete,
Highte this clerk, whos rethorike sweete
Enlumined al Itaille of poetrye,
As Linian dide of philosophye
Or lawe, or other art particuler;
But deeth, that wol nat [suffre vs] dwellen heer
But as it were a twinkling of an eye,
Hem bothe hath slayn, and alle shul we dye.
  But forth to tellen of this worthy man,
That taughte me this tale, as I bigan,
I seye that first with hy style he enditeth,
Er he the body of his tale writeth,
A proheme, in the which discryueth he
Pemond, and of Saluces the contree,
And speketh of Apennyn, the hilles hye,
That been the boundes of West Lumbardye,
  And of Mount Vesulus in special,
Where as the Poo out of a welle smal
Taketh his firste springing and his sours,
That Estward ay encresseth in his cours
To Emelward, to Ferrare, and Venyse;
The which a long thing were to deuyse.
And trewely, as to my iugement,
Me thinketh it a thing impertinent,
Saue that he wol conueyen his matere,
But this his tale [is], which that ye may here.'

Heere bigynneth the tale of the Clerk of Oxenford.

Ther is, at the West syde of Itaille,
Doun at the roote of Vesulus the colde,
A lusty playne, habundant of vitaille,
Wher many a tour and toun thou mayst biholde,
That founded were in tyme of fadres olde,
And many another delitable sighte,
And Saluces this noble contree highte.

A markis whylom lord was of that londe,
As were his worthy eldres him bifore;
And obeisant and redy to his honde
Were alle his liges, bothe lasse and more.
Thus in delyt he liueth, and hath doon yore,
Biloued and drad thurgh fauour of fortune
Bothe of his lordes and of his commune.

Therwith he was, to speke as of linage,
The gentilleste yborn of Lumbardye,
A fair persone, and strong, and yong of age,
And ful of honour and of curteisye;
Discreet ynough his contree for to gye,
Saue in somme thinges that he was to blame,
And Walter was this yonge lordes name.

I blame him thus, that he considereth nought
In tyme coming what him myghte bityde,
But on his lust present was al his thought,
As for to hauke and hunte on euery syde;
Wel ny alle othere cures leet he slyde,
And eek he nolde, and that was worst of alle,
Wedde no wyf, for ought that may bifalle.

Only that point his peple bar so sore,
That flokmele on a day they to him wente,
And oon of hem, that wisest was of lore,
Or elles that the lord best wolde assente
That he sholde telle him what his peple mente,
Or elles coude he shewe wel swich matere,
He to the markis seyde as ye shul here.

'O noble markis, your humanitee
Assureth vs, and yiueth vs hardinesse,
As ofte as tyme is of necessitee
That we to yow mowe telle our heuinesse;
Accepteth, lord, now for your gentillesse,
That we with pitous herte vn-to yow pleyne,
And lete your eres nat my voys disdeyne.

Al haue I nought to doone in this matere
More than another man hath in this place,
Yet for as muche as ye, my lord so dere,
Han alwey shewed me fauour and grace,
I dar the better aske of yow a space
Of audience to shewen our requeste,
And ye, my lord, to doon right as yow leste.

For certes, lord, so wel vs lyketh yow
And al your werk and euer han doon, that we
Ne coude nat vs self deuysen how
We myghte liuen in more felicitee,
Saue o thing, lord, if [it] your wille be,
That for to been a wedded man yow leste,
Than were your peple in souereyn hertes reste.

Boweth your nekke vnder that blisful yok
Of soueraynetee, nought of seruyse,
Which that men clepeth spousail or wedlok;
And thenketh, lord, among your thoughtes wyse,

How that our dayes passe in sondry wyse;
For though we slepe or wake, or rome, or ryde,
Ay fleeth the tyme, it nil no man abyde.

And though your grene youthe floure as yit,
In crepeth age alwey, as stille as stoon,
And deeth manaceth euery age, and smit
In ech estaat, for ther escapeth noon:
And al so certein as we knowe echoon
That we shul deye, as vncerteyn we alle
Been of that day whan deeth shal on vs falle.

Accepteth than of vs the trewe entente,
That neuer yet refuseden your heste,
And we wol, lord, if that ye wol assente,
Chese yow a wyf in short tyme atte leste,
Born of the gentilleste and of the meste
Of al this lond, so that it oughte seme
Honour to god and yow, as we can deme.

Deliuer vs out of al this bisy drede,
And tak a wyf, for hye goddes sake;
For if it so bifelle, as god forbede,
That thurgh your deeth your linage sholde slake,
And that a straunge successour sholde take
Your heritage, o! wo were vs alyue!
Wherfor we pray you hastily to wyue.'

Her meke preyere and her pitous chere
Made the markis herte han pitee.
'Ye wol,' quod he, 'myn owen peple dere,
To that I neuer erst thoughte streyne me.
I me reioysed of my libertee,
That selde tyme is founde in mariage;
Ther I was free, I moot been in seruage.

But nathelees I se your trewe entente,
And truste vpon your wit and haue doon ay;
Wherfor of my free wille I wol assente
To wedde me, as soone as euer I may.
But ther as ye han profred me this day
To chese me a wyf, I yow relesse
That choys, and prey yow of that profre cesse.

For god it woot, that children ofte been
Vnlyk her worthy eldres hem bifore;
Bountee comth al of god, nat of the streen
Of which they been engendred and ybore;
I truste in goddes bountee, and therfore
My mariage and myn estaat and reste
I him bitake; he may doon as him leste.

Lat me alone in chesing of my wyf,
That charge vp-on my bak I wol endure;
But I yow preye, and charge vp-on your lyf,
That what wyf that I take, ye me assure
To worshipe hir, whyl that hir lyf may dure,
In word and werk, bothe here and euerywhere,
As she an emperoures doughter were.

And forthermore, this shal ye swere, that ye
Agayn my choys shul neither grucche ne stryue;
For sith I shal forgoon my libertee
At your requeste, as euer moot I thryue,
Ther as myn herte is set, ther wol I wyue;
And but ye wole assente in swich manere,
I prey yow, speketh namore of this matere.'

With hertly wil they sworen, and assenten
To al this thing, ther seyde no wight nay;

Bisekinge him of grace, er that they wenten,
That he wolde graunten hem a certein day
Of his spousaille, as sone as euer he may;
For yet alwey the peple som-what dredde
Lest that this markis no wyf wolde wedde.

He graunted hem a day, swich as him leste,
On which he wolde be wedded sikerly,
And seyde he dide al this at her requeste;
And they with humble entente buxomly
Knelinge vp-on her knees ful reuerently
Him thanken alle, and thus they han an ende
Of her entente, and hoom agayn they wende.

And heer-vp-on he to his officeres
Comaundeth for the feste to purveye,
And to his priuee knyghtes and squieres
Swich charge yaf, as him liste on hem leye;
And they to his comandement obeye,
And ech of hem doth al his diligence
To doon vn-to the feste reuerence.

Explicit prima pars.
Incipit secunda pars.

Noght fer fro thilke paleys honurable
Ther as this markis shoop his mariage,
Ther stood a throp, of site delytable,
In which that poure folk of that village
Hadden her bestes and her herbergage,
And of her labour tooke her sustenance
After that the erthe yaf hem habundance.

Amonges this poure folk ther dwelte a man
Which that was holden pourest of hem alle;
But hye god som tyme senden can
His grace in-to a litel oxes stalle:

Ianicula men of that thrope him calle.
A doughter hadde he fair ynough to sighte,
And Grisildis this yonge mayden highte.

But for to speke of vertuous beautee,
Than was she oon the faireste vnder sonne;
For poureliche yfostred vp was she,
No likerous lust was thurgh hir herte yronne;
Wel ofter of the welle than of the tonne
She drank, and for she wolde vertu plese,
She knew wel labour, but noon ydel ese.

But though this mayde tendre were of age,
Yet in the brest of hir virginitee
Ther was enclosed rype and sad corage;
And in greet reuerence and charitee
Hir olde poure fader fostred she;
A fewe sheep spinning on feeld she kepte,
She wolde nought been ydel til she slepte.

And whan she homward cam, she wolde bringe
Wortes or othere herbes tymes ofte,
The whiche she shredde and seeth for hir liuinge,
And made hir bed ful harde and no thing softe;
And ay she kepte hir fadres lyf on-lofte
With euerich obeisaunce and diligence
That child may doon to fadres reuerence.

Vp-on Grisilde this poure creature
Ful ofte sythe this markis sette his eye
As he on hunting rood parauenture;
And whan it fil that he myghte hir espye,
He nought with wantoun loking of folye
His eyen caste on hir, but in sad wyse
Vp-on hir chere he wolde him ofte auyse,

Commending in his herte hir wommanhede,
And eek hir vertu, passing any wight
Of so yong age, as wel in chere as dede.
For though the peple haue no greet insight
In vertu, he considered ful right
Hir bountee, and disposed that he wolde
Wedde hir oonly, if euer he wedde sholde.

The day of wedding cam, but no wight can
Telle what womman that it sholde be;
For which merueille wondred many a man,
And seyden, whan they were in priuetee,
'Wol nat our lord yet leue his vanitee?
Wol he nat wedde? allas, allas the whyle!
Why wol he thus him-self and vs bigyle?'

But natheles this markis hath doon make
Of gemmes, set in gold and in asure,
Broches and ringes, for Grisildis sake,
And of hir clothing took he the mesure
By a mayde, lyk to hir stature,
And eek of othere ornamentes alle
That vn-to swich a wedding sholde falle.

The tyme of vndern of the same day
Approcheth, that this wedding sholde be;
And al the paleys put was in array,
Bothe halle and chambres, ech in his degree;
Houses of office stuffed with plentee
Ther maystow seen of deynteuous vitaille,
That may be founde, as fer as last Itaille.

This roial markis richely arrayed,
Lordes and ladyes in his companye,
The whiche vnto the feste were yprayed,
And of his retenue the bachelrye,

With many a soun of sondry melodye,
Vn-to the village, of the which I tolde,
In this array the righte wey han holde.

Grisilde of this, god wot, ful innocent,
That for hir shapen was al this array,
To fecchen water at a welle is went,
And cometh hoom as soone as euer she may.
For wel she had herd seyd, that thilke day
The markis sholde wedde, and, if she myghte,
She wolde fayn han seyn som of that sighte.

She thoughte, 'I wol with othere maydens stonde,
That been my felawes, in our dore, and se
The markisesse, and therfor wol I fonde
To doon at hoom, as soone as it may be,
The labour which that longeth vn-to me;
And than I may at leyser hir biholde,
If she this wey vn-to the castel holde.'

And as she wolde ouer hir threshfold goon,
The markis cam and gan hir for to calle;
And she sette doun hir water-pot anoon
Bisyde the threshfold, in an oxes stalle,
And doun vp-on hir knees she gan to falle,
And with sad contenance kneleth stille
Til she had herd what was the lordes wille.

This thoughtful markis spak vn-to this mayde
Ful sobrely, and seyde in this manere,
'Wher is your fader, Grisildis?' he sayde,
And she with reuerence, in humble chere,
Answerde, 'lord, he is al redy here.'
And in she gooth with-outen lenger lette,
And to the markis she hir fader fette.

He by the hond than took this olde man,
And seyde thus, whan he him hadde asyde,
'Ianicula, I neither may ne can
Lenger the plesance of myn herte hyde.
If that thou vouche sauf, what so bityde,
Thy doughter wol I take er that I wende
As for my wyf, vn-to hir lyues ende.

Thou louest me, I wot it wel certeyn,
And art my feithful lige man ybore;
And al that lyketh me, I dar wel seyn,
It lyketh thee, and specially therfore
Tel me that poynt that I haue seyd bifore,
If that thou wolt vn-to that purpos drawe,
To take me as for thy sone in lawe?'

This sodeyn cas this man astonied so,
That reed he wex, abayst, and al quaking
He stood; vnnethes seyde he wordes mo,
But only thus: 'lord,' quod he, 'my willing
Is as ye wole, ne ayeins youre lyking
I wol no-thing; ye be my lord so dere;
Right as yow lust gouerneth this matere.'

'Yet wol I,' quod this markis softely,
'That in thy chambre I and thou and she
Haue a collacion, and wostow why?
For I wol axe if it hir wille be
To be my wyf, and reule hir after me;
And al this shal be doon in thy presence,
I wol nought speke out of thyn audience.'

And in the chambre whyl they were aboute
Her tretys, which as ye shal after here,

The peple cam vn-to the hous with-oute,
And wondred hem in how honeste manere
And tentifly she kepte hir fader dere.
But outerly Grisildis wondre myghte,
For neuer erst ne sey she swich a sighte.

No wonder is though [that] she were astoned
To seen so greet a gest come in that place;
She neuer was to swiche gestes woned,
For which she loked with ful pale face.
But shortly forth this tale for to chace,
Thise arn the wordes that the markis sayde
To this benigne verray feithful mayde.

'Grisilde,' he seyde, 'ye shul wel vnderstonde
It lyketh to your fader and to me
That I yow wedde, and eek it may so stonde,
As I suppose, ye wol that it so be.
But thise demandes axe I first,' quod he,
'That, sith it shal be doon in hastif wyse,
Wol ye assente or elles yow auyse?

I seye this, be ye redy with good herte
To al my lust, and that I frely may,
As me best thinketh, do yow laughe or smerte,
And neuer ye to grucche it, nyght ne day?
And eek whan I sey "ye," ne sey nat "nay,"
Neither by word ne frowning contenance;
Swer this, and here I swere our alliance.'

Wondring vp-on this word, quaking for drede,
She seyde, 'lord, vndigne and vnworthy
Am I to thilke honour that ye me bede;
But as ye wol your-self, right so wol I.

And heer I swere that neuer willingly
In werk ne thought I nil yow disobeye,
For to be deed, though me were loth to deye.'

'This is ynough, Grisilde myn!' quod he.
And forth he goth with a ful sobre chere
Out at the dore, and after that cam she,
And to the peple he seyde in this manere,
'This is my wyf,' quod he, 'that standeth here.
Honoureth hir, and loueth hir, I preye,
Who so me loueth; ther is namore to seye.'

And for that no-thing of hir olde gere
She sholde bringe in-to his hous, he bad
That wommen sholde dispoilen hir right there;
Of which thise ladyes were nat right glad
To handle hir clothes wher-in she was clad,
But natheles this mayde bright of hewe
Fro foot to heed they clothed han al newe.

Hir heres han they kembd, that lay vntressed
Ful rudely, and with her fingres smale
A corone on hir heed they han ydressed,
And sette hir ful of nowches grete and smale;
Of hir array what sholde I make a tale?
Vnnethe the peple hir knew for hir fairnesse,
Whan she translated was in swich richesse.

This markis hath hir spoused with a ring
Brought for the same cause, and than hir sette
Vp-on an hors, snow-whyt and wel ambling,
And to his paleys, er he lenger lette,
With ioyful peple that hir ladde and mette,
Conueyed hir, and thus the day they spende
In reuel til the sonne gan descende.

And shortly forth this tale for to chace,
I seye that to this newe markisesse
God hath swich fauour sent hir of his grace,
That it ne semed nat by lyklinesse
That she was born and fed in rudenesse,
As in a cote or in an oxe-stalle,
But norished in an emperoures halle.

To euery wight she woxen is so dere
And worshipful, that folk ther she was bore
And from hir birthe knewe hir yeer by yere,
Vnnethe trowed they, but dorste han swore
That to Ianicle, of which I spak bifore,
She doughter nas, for, as by coniecture,
Hem thoughte she was another creature.

For though that euer vertuous was she,
She was encressed in swich excellence
Of thewes goode, yset in heigh bountee,
And so discreet and fair of eloquence,
So benigne and so digne of reuerence,
And coude so the peples herte embrace,
That ech hir louede that loked on hir face.

Nought only of Saluces in the toun
Publisshed was the bountee of hir name,
But eek bisyde in many a regioun,
If oon seyde wel, another seyde the same;
So spradde of hir heigh bountee the fame,
That men and wommen, as wel yonge as olde,
Gon to Saluce, vpon hir to biholde.

Thus Walter lowly, nay but roially,
Wedded with fortunat honestetee,
In goddes pees lyueth ful esily
At hoom, and outward grace ynough had he;

And for he sey that vnder low degree
Was [ofte] vertu hid, the peple him helde
A prudent man, and that is seyn ful selde.

Nat only this Grisildis thurgh hir wit
Coude al the feet of wyfly homlinesse,
But eek, whan that the cas required it,
The commune profit coude she redresse.
Ther nas discord, rancour, ne heuinesse
In al that lond, that she ne coude apese,
And wysly bringe hem alle in reste and ese.

Though that hir housbonde absent were anoon,
If gentil men, or othere of hir contree
Were wrothe, she wolde bringen hem atoon;
So wise and rype wordes hadde she,
And iugementz of so greet equitee,
That she from heuen sent was, as men wende,
Peple to saue and euery wrong tamende.

Nat longe tyme after that this Grisild
Was wedded, she a doughter hath ybore,
Al had hir leuer haue born a knaue child.
Glad was this markis and the folk therfore;
For though a mayde child come al bifore,
She may vnto a knaue child atteyne
By lyklihed, sin she nis nat bareyne.

Explicit secunda pars.
Incipit tercia pars.

Ther fil, as it bifalleth tymes mo,
Whan that this child had souked but a throwe,
This markis in his herte longeth so
To tempte his wyf, hir sadnesse for to knowe,

That he ne myghte out of his herte throwe
This merueillous desyr, his wyf tassaye,
Needlees, god wot, he thoughte hir for taffraye.

He hadde assayed hir ynough bifore
And fond hir euer good; what neded it
Hir for to tempte and alwey more and more?
Though som men preise it for a subtil wit,
But as for me, I seye that yuel it sit
Tassaye a wyf whan that it is no nede,
And putten her in anguish and in drede.

For which this markis wroughte in this manere;
He cam alone a-nyghte, ther as she lay,
With sterne face and with ful trouble chere,
And seyde thus, 'Grisild,' quod he, 'that day
That I yow took out of your poure array,
And putte yow in estaat of heigh noblesse,
Ye haue nat that forgeten, as I gesse.

I seye, Grisild, this present dignitee,
In which that I haue put yow, as I trowe,
Maketh yow nat foryetful for to be
That I yow took in poure estaat ful lowe
For any wele ye moot your-seluen knowe.
Tak hede of euery word that I yow seye,
Ther is no wight that hereth it but we tweye.

Ye woot your-self wel, how that ye came here
In-to this hous, it is nat longe ago,
And though to me that ye be lief and dere,
Vn-to my gentils ye be no-thing so;
They seyn, to hem it is greet shame and wo
For to be subgetz and been in seruage
To thee, that born art of a smal village.

And namely, sith thy doughter was ybore,
Thise wordes han they spoken doutelees;
But I desyre, as I haue doon bifore,
To liue my lyf with hem in reste and pees;
I may nat in this cas be recchelees.
I mot don with thy doughter for the beste,
Nat as I wolde, but as my peple leste.

And yet, god wot, this is ful looth to me;
But natheles with-oute your witing
I wol nat don, but this wol I,' quod he,
'That ye to me assente as in this thing.
Shewe now your pacience in your werking
That ye me hyghte and swore in your village
That day that maked was our mariage.'

Whan she had herd al this, she nought ameued
Neither in word, or chere, or countenance;
For, as it semed, she was nat agreued:
She seyde, 'lord, al lyth in your plesance,
My child and I with hertly obeisance
Ben youres al, and ye mowe saue or spille
Your owen thing; werketh after your wille.

Ther may no-thing, god so my soule saue,
Lyken to yow that may displese me;
Ne I ne desyre no-thing for to haue,
Ne drede for to lese, saue only ye;
This wil is in myn herte and ay shal be.
No lengthe of tyme or deeth may this deface,
Ne chaunge my corage to another place.'

Glad was this markis of hir answering,
But yet he feyned as he were nat so;

Al drery was his chere and his loking
Whan that he sholde out of the chambre go.
Sone after this, a furlong wey or two,
He priuely hath told al his entente
Vn-to a man, and to his wyf him sente.

A maner sergeant was this priuee man,
The which that feithful ofte he founden hadde
In thinges grete, and eek swich folk wel can
Doon execucion on thinges badde.
The lord knew wel that he him louede and dradde,
And whan this sergeant wiste his lordes wille,
In-to the chambre he stalked him ful stille.

'Madame,' he seyde, 'ye mote foryiue it me,
Though I do thing to which I am constreyned;
Ye ben so wys that ful wel knowe ye
That lordes hestes mowe nat ben yfeyned;
They mowe wel ben biwailled or compleyned,
But men mot nede vn-to her lust obeye,
And so wol I; ther is namore to seye.

This child I am comanded for to take'—
And spak namore, but out the child he hente
Despitously, and gan a chere make
As though he wolde han slayn it er he wente.
Grisildis mot al suffren and consente;
And as a lamb she sitteth meke and stille,
And leet this cruel sergeant doon his wille.

Suspecious was the diffame of this man,
Suspect his face, suspect his word also;
Suspect the tyme in which he this bigan.
Allas! hir doughter that she louede so

She wende he wolde han slawen it right tho.
But natheles she neither weep ne syked,
Consenting hir to that the markis lyked.

But atte laste speken she bigan,
And mekely she to the sergeant preyde,
So as he was a worthy gentil man,
That she moste kisse hir child er that it deyde;
And in her barm this litel child she leyde
With ful sad face, and gan the child to kisse
And lulled it, and after gan it blisse.

And thus she seyde in hir benigne voys,
'Far wel, my child; I shal thee neuer see;
But, sith I thee haue marked with the croys,
Of thilke fader blessed mote thou be,
That for vs deyde vp-on a croys of tree.
Thy soule, litel child, I him bitake,
For this nyght shaltow deyen for my sake.'

I trowe that to a norice in this cas
It had ben hard this rewthe for to se;
Wel myghte a moder than han cryed 'allas!'
But natheles so sad stedfast was she,
That she endured all aduersitee,
And to the sergeant mekely she sayde,
'Haue heer agayn your litel yonge mayde.

Goth now,' quod she, 'and doth my lordes heste,
But o thing wol I preye yow of your grace,
That, but my lord forbad yow, atte leste
Burieth this litel body in som place
That bestes ne no briddes it to-race.'
But he no word wol to that purpos seye,
But took the child and wente vpon his weye.

This sergeant cam vn-to his lord ageyn,
And of Grisildis wordes and hir chere
He tolde him point for point, in short and playn,
And him presenteth with his doughter dere.
Somwhat this lord hath rewthe in his manere;
But natheles his purpos heeld he stille,
As lordes doon whan they wol han hir wille;

And bad his sergeant that he priuely
Sholde this child [ful] softe wynde and wrappe
With alle circumstances tendrely,
And carie it in a cofre or in a lappe;
But, vp-on peyne his heed of for to swappe,
That no man sholde knowe of his entente,
Ne whenne he cam, ne whider that he wente;

But at Boloigne to his suster deere,
That thilke tyme of Panik was countesse,
He sholde it take and shewe hir this matere,
Bisekinge hir to don hir bisinesse
This child to fostre in alle gentilesse;
And whos child that it was he bad hir hyde
From euery wight, for ought that may bityde.

The sergeant goth, and hath fulfild this thing;
But to this markis now retourne we;
For now goth he ful faste ymagining
If by his wyues chere he myghte se,
Or by hir word aperceyue that she
Were chaunged; but he neuer hir coude fynde
But euer in oon ylyke sad and kynde.

As glad, as humble, as bisy in seruyse,
And eek in loue as she was wont to be,

Was she to him in euery maner wyse;
Ne of hir doughter nought a word spak she.
Noon accident for noon aduersitee
Was seyn in hir, ne neuer hir doughter name
Ne nempned she, in ernest nor in game.

Explicit tercia pars.
Sequitur pars quarta.

In this estaat ther passed ben four yeer
Er she with childe was; but, as god wolde,
A knaue child she bar by this Walter,
Ful gracious and fair for to biholde.
And whan that folk it to his fader tolde,
Nat only he, but al his contree, merie
Was for this child, and god they thanke and herie.

Whan it was two yeer old, and fro the brest
Departed of his norice, on a day
This markis caughte yet another lest
To tempte his wyf yet ofter, if he may.
O needles was she tempted in assay!
But wedded men ne knowe no mesure,
Whan that they fynde a pacient creature.

'Wyf,' quod this markis, 'ye han herd er this,
My peple sikly berth our mariage,
And namely sith my sone yboren is,
Now is it worse than euer in al our age.
The murmur sleeth myn herte and my corage;
For to myne eres comth the voys so smerte,
That it wel ny destroyed hath myn herte.

Now sey they thus, "whan Walter is agoon,
Than shal the blood of Ianicle succede

And been our lord, for other haue we noon;"
Swiche wordes seith my peple, out of drede.
Wel oughte I of swich murmur taken hede;
For certeinly I drede swich sentence,
Though they nat pleyn speke in myn audience.

I wolde liue in pees, if that I myghte;
Wherfor I am disposed outerly,
As I his suster seruede by nyghte,
Right so thenke I to serue him pryuely;
This warne I yow, that ye nat sodeynly
Out of your-self for no wo sholde outraye;
Beth pacient, and ther-of I yow preye.'

'I haue,' quod she, 'seyd thus, and euer shal,
I wol no thing, ne nil no thing certayn
But as yow list; nought greueth me at al,
Though that my doughter and my sone be slayn,
At your comandement, this is to sayn.
I haue nought had no part of children tweyne
But first siknesse, and after wo and peyne.

Ye ben our lord, doth with your owen thing
Right as yow list; axeth no reed at me.
For, as I lefte at hoom al my clothing,
Whan I first cam to yow, right so,' quod she,
'Lefte I my wil and al my libertee,
And took your clothing; wherfor I yow preye,
Doth your plesance, I wol your lust obeye.

And certes, if I hadde prescience
Your wil to knowe er ye your lust me tolde,
I wolde it doon with-outen necligence;
But now I wot your lust and what ye wolde,

Al your plesance ferme and stable I holde;
For wiste I that my deeth wolde do yow ese,
Right gladly wolde I deyen, yow to plese.

Deth may nought make no comparisoun
Vn-to your loue:' and, whan this markis sey
The constance of his wyf, he caste adoun
His eyen two, and wondreth that she may
In pacience suffre al this array.
And forth he goth with drery contenance,
But to his herte it was ful greet plesance.

This vgly sergeant in the same wyse
That he hir doughter caughte, right so he,
Or worse, if men worse can deuyse,
Hath hent hir sone, that ful was of beautee.
And euer in oon so pacient was she,
That she no chere made of heuinesse,
But kiste hir sone, and after gan it blesse;

Saue this; she preyede him that, if he myghte,
Hir litel sone he wolde in erthe graue,
His tendre lymes, delicat to sighte,
Fro foules and fro bestes for to saue.
But she non answer of him myghte haue.
He wente his wey, as him no thing ne roughte;
But to Boloigne he tendrely it broughte.

This markis wondred euer lenger the more
Vp-on hir pacience, and if that he
Ne hadde soothly knowen ther-bifore,
That parfitly hir children louede she,
He wolde haue wend that of som subtiltee,
And of malice or for cruel corage,
That she had suffred this with sad visage.

But wel he knew that next him-self certayn
She louede hir children best in euery wyse.
But now of wommen wolde I axen fayn,
If thise assayes myghte nat suffyse?
What coude a sturdy housbond more deuyse
To preue hir wyfhod and hir stedfastnesse,
And he continuing euer in sturdinesse?

But ther ben folk of swich condicion,
That, whan they haue a certein purpos take,
They can nat stinte of hir entencion,
But, right as they were bounden to a stake,
They wol nat of that firste purpos slake.
Right so this markis fulliche hath purposed
To tempte his wyf, as he was first disposed.

He waiteth, if by word or contenance
That she to him was changed of corage;
But neuer coude he fynde variance;
She was ay oon in herte and in visage;
And ay the ferther that she was in age,
The more trewe, if that it were possible,
She was to him in loue, and more penible.

For which it semed thus, that of hem two
Ther nas but o wil; for, as Walter leste,
The same lust was hir plesance also,
And, god be thanked, al fil for the beste.
She shewed wel, for no worldly vnreste
A wyf as of hir-self no thing ne sholde
Wille in effect, but as hir housbond wolde.

The sclaundre of Walter ofte and wyde spradde,
That of a cruel herte he wikkedly,

For he a poure womman wedded hadde,
Hath mordred bothe his children priuely.
Swich murmur was among hem comunly.
No wonder is, for to the peples ere
Ther cam no word but that they mordred were.

For which, wher as his peple ther-bifore
Had loued him wel, the sclaundre of his diffame
Made hem that they him hatede therfore,
To ben a mordrer is an hateful name.
But natheles, for ernest ne for game
He of his cruel purpos nolde stente;
To tempte his wyf was set al his entente.

Whan that his doughter twelf yeer was of age,
He to the court of Rome, in subtil wyse
Enformed of his wil, sente his message,
Comaunding hem swiche bulles to deuyse
As to his cruel purpos may suffyse,
How that the pope, as for his peples reste,
Bad him to wedde another, if him leste.

I seye, he bad they sholde countrefete
The popes bulles, making mencion
That he hath leue his firste wyf to lete,
As by the popes dispensacion,
To stinte rancour and dissencion
Bitwixe his peple and him; thus seyde the bulle,
The which they han publisshed atte fulle.

The rude peple, as it no wonder is,
Wenden ful wel that it had ben right so;
But whan thise tydinges cam to Grisildis,
I deme that hir herte was ful wo.

But she, ylyke sad for euermo,
Disposed was, this humble creature,
Thaduersitee of fortune al tendure.

Abyding euer his lust and his plesance,
To whom that she was yeuen, herte and al,
As to hir verray worldly suffisance;
But shortly if this storie I tellen shal,
This markis writen hath in special
A lettre in which he sheweth his entente,
And secrely he to Boloigne it sente.

To the erl of Panik, which that hadde tho
Wedded his suster, preyde he specially
To bringen hoom agayn his children two
In honurable estaat al openly.
But o thing he him preyede outerly,
That he to no wight, though men wolde enquere,
Sholde nat telle, whos children they were,

But seye, the mayden sholde ywedded be
Vn-to the markis of Saluce anon.
And as this erl was preyed, so dide he;
For at day set he on his wey is goon
Toward Saluce, and lordes many oon,
In riche array, this mayden for to gyde;
Hir yonge brother ryding hir bisyde.

Arrayed was toward his mariage
This fresshe mayde, ful of gemmes clere;
Hir brother, which that seuen yeer was of age,
Arrayed eek ful fresh in his manere.
And thus in greet noblesse and with glad chere,
Toward Saluces shaping her iourney,
Fro day to day they ryden in her wey.

Explicit quarta pars.
Sequitur pars quinta.

Among al this, after his wikke vsage,
This markis, yet his wyf to tempte more
To the vttereste preue of hir corage,
Fully to han experience and lore
If that she were as stedfast as bifore,
He on a day in open audience
Ful boistously hath seyd hir this sentence:

'Certes, Grisild, I hadde ynough plesance
To han yow to my wyf for your goodnesse,
As for your trewthe and for your obeisance,
Nought for your linage ne for your richesse;
But now knowe I in verray soothfastnesse
That in greet lordshipe, if I wel auyse,
Ther is greet seruitute in sondry wyse.

I may nat don as euery plowman may;
My peple me constreyneth for to take
Another wyf, and cryen day by day;
And eek the pope, rancour for to slake,
Consenteth it, that dar I vndertake;
And treweliche thus muche I wol yow seye,
My newe wyf is coming by the weye.

Be strong of herte, and voyde anon hir place,
And thilke dower that ye broughten me
Tak it agayn, I graunte it of my grace;
Retourneth to your fadres hous,' quod he;
'No man may alwey han prosperitee;
With euene herte I rede yow tendure
The strook of fortune or of auenture.'

And she answerde agayn in pacience,
'My lord,' quod she, 'I wot, and wiste alway
How that bitwixen your magnificence
And my pouerte no wight can ne may
Maken comparison; it is no nay.
I ne heeld me neuer digne in no manere
To be your wyf, no, ne your chamberere.

And in this hous, ther ye me lady made—
The heighe god take I for my witnesse,
And also wisly he my soule glade—
I neuer heeld me lady ne maistresse,
But humble seruant to your worthinesse,
And euer shal, whyl that my lyf may dure,
Abouen euery worldly creature.

That ye so longe of your benignitee
Han holden me in honour and nobleye,
Wher as I was nought worthy for to be,
That thonke I god and yow, to whom I preye
Foryelde it yow; there is namore to seye.
Vn-to my fader gladly wol I wende,
And with him dwelle vn-to my lyues ende.

. . . . . .

And of your newe wyf, god of his grace
So graunte yow wele and prosperitee:
For I wol gladly yelden hir my place,
In which that I was blisful wont to be.
For sith it lyketh yow, my lord,' quod she,
'That whylom weren al myn hertes reste,
That I shal goon, I wol goon whan yow leste.

But ther as ye me profre swich dowaire
As I first broughte, it is wel in my mynde

It were my wrecched clothes, no-thing faire,
The which to me were hard now for to fynde.
O goode god! how gentil and how kynde
Ye semed by your speche and your visage
The day that maked was our mariage!

But sooth is seyd, algate I fynde it trewe—
For in effect it preued is on me—
Loue is nought old as whan that it is newe.
But certes, lord, for noon aduersitee,
To deyen in the cas, it shal nat be
That euer in word or werk I shal repente
That I yow yaf myn herte in hool entente.

. . . . . .

The remenant of your Iewels redy be
In-with youre chambre, dar I saufly sayn;
Naked out of my fadres hous,' quod she,
'I cam, and naked mot I turne agayn.
Al your plesance wol I folwen fayn;
But yet I hope it be nat your entente
That I smokles out of your paleys wente.'

. . . . . .

'The smok,' quod he, 'that thou hast on thy bak,
Lat it be stille, and ber it forth with thee.'
But wel vnnethes thilke word he spak,
But wente his wey for rewthe and for pitee.
Biforn the folk hir-seluen strepeth she,
And in hir smok, with heed and foot al bare,
Toward hir fader hous forth is she fare.

The folk hir folwe wepinge in hir weye,
And fortune ay they cursen as they goon;

But she fro weping kepte hir eyen dreye,
Ne in this tyme word ne spak she noon.
Hir fader, that this tyding herde anoon,
Curseth the day and tyme that nature
Shoop him to ben a lyues creature.

For out of doute this olde poure man
Was euer in suspect of hir mariage;
For euer he demed, sith that it bigan,
That whan the lord fulfild had his corage,
Him wolde thinke it were a disparage
To his estaat so lowe for talighte,
And voyden hir as sone as euer he myghte.

Agayns his doughter hastilich goth he,
For he by noyse of folk knew hir cominge,
And with hir olde cote, as it myghte be,
He couered hir, ful sorwefully wepinge;
But on hir body myghte he it nat bringe.
For rude was the cloth, and more of age
By dayes fele than at hir mariage.

Thus with hir fader for a certeyn space
Dwelleth this flour of wyfly pacience,
That neither by hir wordes ne hir face
Biforn the folk, ne eek in her absence,
Ne shewed she that hir was doon offence;
Ne of hir heigh estaat no remembrance
Ne hadde she, as by hir contenance.

No wonder is, for in hir grete estaat
Hir goost was euer in pleyn humylitee;
No tendre mouth, non herte delicat,
No pompe, no semblant of roialtee,
But ful of pacient benignitee,

Discreet and prydeles, ay honurable,
And to hir housbonde euer meke and stable.

Men speke of Iob and most for his humblesse,
As clerkes, whan hem list, can wel endite,
Namely of men, but as in soothfastnesse,
Though clerkes preise wommen but a lyte,
Ther can no man in humblesse him acquyte
As womman can, ne can ben half so trewe
As wommen ben, but it be falle of-newe.

[*Pars Sexta.*]

Fro Boloigne is this erl of Panik come,
Of which the fame vp sprang to more and lesse,
And in the peples eres alle and some
Was couth eek, that a newe markisesse
He with him broughte, in swich pompe and richesse,
That neuer was ther seyn with mannes eye
So noble array in al West Lumbardye.

The markis, which that shoop and knew al this,
Er that this erl was come, sente his message
For thilke sely poure Grisildis;
And she with humble herte and glad visage,
Nat with no swollen thought in hir corage,
Cam at his heste, and on hir knees hir sette,
And reuerently and wysly she him grette.

'Grisild,' quod he, 'my wille is outerly,
This mayden, that shal wedded ben to me,
Receiued be to-morwe as roially
As it possible is in myn hous to be.
And eek that euery wight in his degree
Haue his estaat in sitting and seruyse
And heigh plesance, as I can best deuyse.

I haue no wommen suffisant certayn
The chambres for tarraye in ordinance
After my lust, and therfor wolde I fayn
That thyn were al swich maner gouernance;
Thou knowest eek of old al my plesance;
Though thyn array be badde and yuel biseye,
Do thou thy deuoir at the leste weye.'

'Nat only, lord, that I am glad,' quod she,
'To doon your lust, but I desyre also
Yow for to serue and plese in my degree
With-outen feynting, and shal euermo.
Ne neuer, for no wele ne no wo,
Ne shal the gost with-in myn herte stente
To loue yow best with al my trewe entente.'

And with that word she gan the hous to dyghte,
And tables for to sette and beddes make;
And peyned hir to don al that she myghte,
Preying the chambereres, for goddes sake,
To hasten hem and faste swepe and shake;
And she, the moste seruisable of alle,
Hath euery chambre arrayed and his halle.

Abouten vndern gan this erl alyghte,
That with him broughte these noble children tweye,
For which the peple ran to seen the sighte
Of hir array, so richely biseye;
And than at erst amonges hem they seye,
That Walter was no fool, though that him leste
To chaunge his wyf, for it was for the beste.

For she is fairer, as they demen alle,
Than is Grisild, and more tendre of age,

And fairer fruyt bitwene hem sholde falle,
And more plesant, for hir heigh lynage;
Hir brother eek so fair was of visage,
That hem to seen the peple hath caught plesance,
Commending now the markis gouernance.—

Auctor. 'O stormy peple! vnsad and euer vntrewe!
Ay vndiscreet and chaunging as a vane,
Delyting euer in rombel that is newe,
For lyk the mone ay wexe ye and wane;
Ay ful of clapping, dere ynough a Iane;
Your doom is fals, your constance yuel preueth,
A ful greet fool is he that on yow leueth!'

Thus seyden sadde folk in that citee,
Whan that the peple gazed vp and doun,
For they were glad, right for the noueltee,
To han a newe lady of her toun.
Namore of this make I now mencioun;
But to Grisild agayn wol I me dresse,
And telle hir constance and hir bisinesse.—

Ful bisy was Grisild in euery thing
That to the feste was apertinent;
Right nought was she abayst of hir clothing,
Though it were rude and somdel eek to-rent.
But with glad chere to the yate is went
With other folk to grete the markisesse,
And after that doth forth hir bisinesse.

With so glad chere his gestes she receyueth,
And conningly, euerich in his degree,
That no defaute no man aperceyueth;
But ay they wondren what she myghte be

That in so poure array was for to see,
And coude swich honour and reuerence;
And worthily they preisen hir prudence.

In al this mene whyle she ne stente
This mayde and eek hir brother to commende
With al hir herte, in ful benigne entente,
So wel that no man coude hir prys amende.
But atte laste, whan that thise lordes wende
To sitten doun to mete, he gan to calle
Grisild, as she was bisy in his halle.

'Grisild,' quod he, as it were in his pley,
'How lyketh thee my wyf and hir beautee?'
'Right wel,' quod she, 'my lord; for, in good fey,
A fairer sey I neuer non than she.
I prey to god yiue hir prosperitee;
And so hope I that he wol to yow sende
Plesance ynough vn-to your lyues ende.

O thing biseke I yow and warne also,
That ye ne prikke with no tormentinge
This tendre mayden, as ye han doon mo;
For she is fostred in hir norishinge
More tendrely, and, to my supposinge,
She coude nat aduersitee endure,
As coude a poure fostred creature.'

And whan this Walter sey hir pacience,
Hir glade chere and no malice at al,
And he so ofte had doon to hir offence,
And she ay sad and constant as a wal,
Continuing euer hir innocence oueral,
This sturdy markis gan his herte dresse
To rewen vp-on hir wyfly stedfastnesse.

'This is ynough, Grisilde myn,' quod he,
'Be now namore agast ne yuel apayed;
I haue thy feith and thy benignitee,
As wel as euer womman was, assayed,
In greet estaat and poureliche arrayed.
Now knowe I, goode wyf, thy stedfastnesse,'—
And hir in armes took and gan hir kesse.

And she for wonder took of it no kepe;
She herde nat what thing he to hir seyde;
She ferde as she had stert out of a slepe,
Til she out of hir masednesse abreyde.
'Grisild,' quod he, 'by god that for vs deyde,
Thou art my wyf, [ne] non other I haue,
Ne neuer hadde, as god my soule saue!

This is thy doughter which thou hast supposed
To be my wyf; that other feithfully
Shal be myn heir, as I haue ay purposed;
Thou bare him in thy body trewely.
At Boloigne haue I kept hem priuely,
Tak hem agayn, for now maystow nat seye
That thou hast lorn non of thy children tweye.

And folk that otherweyes han seyd of me,
I warne hem wel that I haue doon this dede
For no malice ne for no crueltee,
But for tassaye in thee thy wommanhede,
And nat to sleen my children, god forbede!
But for to kepe hem priuely and stille,
Til I thy purpos knew and al thy wille.'

Whan she this herde, aswowne doun she falleth
For pitous joye, and after hir swowning

She bothe hir yonge children vn-to hir calleth,
And in hir armes, pitously weping,
Embraceth hem, and tendrely kissing
Ful lyk a mooder, with hir salte teres
She batheth bothe hir visage and hir heres.

O, which a pitous thing it was to se
Hir swowning, and hir humble voys to here!
'Graunt mercy, lord, that thanke I yow,' quod she,
'That ye han saued me my children dere!
Now rekke I neuer to ben deed right here;
Sith I stonde in your loue and in your grace,
No fors of deeth, ne whan my spirit pace!

O tendre, o dere, o yonge children myne,
Your woful mooder wende stedfastly
That cruel houndes or som foul vermyne
Hadde eten yow; but god, of his mercy,
And your benigne fader tendrely
Hath doon yow kept;' and in that same stounde
Al sodeynly she swapte adoun to grounde.

And in hir swough so sadly holdeth she
Hir children two, whan she gan hem tembrace,
That with greet sleighte and greet difficultee
The children from hir arm they gonne arace.
O many a teer on many a pitous face
Doun ran of hem that stoden hir bisyde;
Vnnethe abouten hir myghte they abyde.

Walter hir gladeth and hir sorwe slaketh;
She ryseth vp abaysed from hir trance,
And euery wight hir ioye and feste maketh,
Til she hath caught agayn hir contenance.

Walter hir dooth so feithfully plesance,
That it was deyntee for to seen the chere
Bitwixe hem two, now they ben met yfere.

Thise ladyes whan that they her tyme sey,
Han taken hir, and in-to chambre gon,
And strepen hir out of hir rude array,
And in a cloth of gold that bryghte shoon,
With a coroune of many a riche stoon
Vp-on hir heed, they in-to halle hir broughte,
And ther she was honoured as hir oughte.

Thus hath this pitous day a blisful ende,
For euery man and womman doth his myght
This day in murthe and reuel to dispende
Til on the welkne shoon the sterres lyght.
For more solempne in euery mannes sight
This feste was, and gretter of costage,
Than was the reuel of hir mariage.

Ful many a yeer in heigh prosperitee
Liuen thise two in concord and in reste,
And richely his doughter maried he
Vn-to a lord, oon of the worthieste
Of al Itaille; and than in pees and reste
His wyues fader in his court he kepeth,
Til that the soule out of his body crepeth.

His sone succedeth in his heritage
In reste and pees, after his fader day;
And fortunat was eek in mariage,
Al putte he nat his wyf in greet assay.
This world is nat so strong, it is no nay,
As it hath ben of olde tymes yore,
And herkneth what this auctour seith therfore.

This storie is seyd nat for that wyues sholde
Folwen Grisild as in humilitee,
For it were importable, though they wolde;
But for that euery wight in his degree
Sholde be constant in aduersitee
As was Grisild, therfor this Petrark writeth
This storie, which with hy style he enditeth.

For, sith a womman was so pacient
Vn-to a mortal man, wel more vs oughte
Receyuen al in gree that god vs sent;
For greet skile is, he preue that he wroughte.
But he ne tempteth no man that he boughte,
As seith seint Iame, if ye his pistil rede;
He preueth folk al day, it is no drede,

And suffreth vs, as for our excercise,
With sharpe scourges of aduersitee
Ful ofte to be bete in sondry wyse;
Nat for to knowe our wil, for certes he,
Er we were born, knew [al] our freletee;
And for our beste is al his gouernance;
Lat vs than liue in vertuous suffrance.

But o word, lordinges, herkneth er I go:—
It were ful hard to fynde now a dayes
In al a toun Grisildes thre or two;
For, if that they were put to swiche assayes,
The gold of hem hath now so badde alayes
With bras, that though the coyne be fair at eye,
It wolde rather breste atwo than plye.

For which heer, for the wyues loue of Bathe,
Whos lyf and al hir secte god mayntene

In heigh maistrie, and elles were it scathe,
I wol with lusty herte fresshe and grene
Seyn yow a song to glade yow, I wene,
And lat vs stinte of ernestful matere:—
Herkneth my song that seith in this manere.

Lenuoy de Chaucer.

Grisilde is deed, and eek hir pacience,
And bothe atones buried in Itaille;
For which I crye in open audience,
No wedded man so hardy be tassaille
His wyues pacience, in hope to fynde
Grisildes, for in certein he shal faille!

O noble wyues, ful of heigh prudence,
Lat non humilitee your tonge naille,
Ne lat no clerk haue cause or diligence
To write of yow a storie of swich meruaille
As of Grisildis pacient and kynde;
Lest Chicheuache yow swelwe in hir entraille!

Folweth Ekko, that holdeth no silence,
But euere answereth at the countretaille;
Beth nat bidaffed for your innocence,
But sharply tak on yow the gouernaille.
Emprinteth wel this lesson in your mynde
For commune profit, sith it may auaille.

Ye archewyues, stondeth at defence,
Sin ye be stronge as is a greet camaille;
Ne suffreth nat that men yow don offence.
And sklendre wyues, fieble as in bataille,
Beth egre as is a tygre yond in Ynde;
Ay clappeth as a mille, I yow consaille.

Ne dreed hem nat, do hem no reuerence;
For though thyn housbonde armed be in maille,
The arwes of thy crabbed eloquence
Shal perce his brest, and eek his auentaille;
In jalousye I rede eek thou him bynde,
And thou shalt make him couche as doth a quaille.

If thou be fair, ther folk ben in presence
Shew thou thy visage and thyn apparaille;
If thou be foul, be fre of thy dispence,
To gete thee frendes ay do thy trauaille;
Be ay of chere as lyght as leef on lynde,
And lat him care, and wepe, and wringe, and waille!

NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The principal part of the *Clerkes Tale* is a translation of Petrarch's *De obedientia et fide uxoria mythologia* ('A Myth upon Wifely Obedience and Faith'). (The chief passages that are Chaucer's own are lines 103–105, 147, 215–217, 375–376, 382–383, 932–938, 995–1008, and 1163–1212.) The story, however, was not Petrarch's own, but was borrowed by him from Boccaccio, in whose *Decamerone* it appears as the last tale—the tenth tale of the tenth day. Boccaccio's tale was written about 1348, and Petrarch's Latin version appears to have been written in 1373. It is accompanied by a letter to Boccaccio, in which Petrarch says that the story had always pleased him when he heard it many years before. The story would thus appear to have been older than Boccaccio, and certainly we soon find it widely diffused and highly popular. It was the subject of a mystery in French verse in 1393, and its heroine Griselda is painted among the celebrated lovers on the walls of the Temple in Lydgate's poem, *The Temple of Glass*, together with Dido, Penelope, Alcestis, and Lucretia. The beauty of the story, as well as its allegorical value as a lesson teaching the duty of submission to the will of God, seems to have touched the popular imagination, and we find it to have been the subject of numerous plays and ballads, and to have held its place in literature down to Miss Edgeworth's domestic novel, *The Modern Griselda*. Chaucer makes the Clerk say that he had learned the tale at Padua from the lips of Petrarch himself, and in all probability he identifies himself here with the Clerk, and speaks out his own personal experience, as he was absent from Italy on the king's business from the December of 1372 to the November of 1373. During his embassy, he visited Genoa and Florence, and it is very probable that on this journey he may have met Petrarch at Padua, as that poet's residence was hard by at Arqua. Of course, there is no direct evidence of this beyond the inherent probability of his having been likely to make such a visit from his admiration for Petrarch, and the persistency of the tradition. The really noteworthy point is this: that while neither the *Romaunt of the Rose* nor the *Book of the Duchess* exhibits any trace of Italian influence, the same assertion cannot be made of any poem produced by Chaucer after the date of this Italian journey. Although he may have first heard the story from the lips of Petrarch, it is certain that he had the Latin version of the latter before him when he wrote. This is shown as well by the closeness of Chaucer's version as by the fact that, in the margins of the Ellesmere and Hengwrt MSS., numerous quotations from that version are actually written on the margins, each in its proper place. The test of metre, as Mr Skeat points out, gives the same result, as it shows that it was one of his early works. It is most probable that the main part of the poem was written soon after 1373, and that it was afterwards fitted, with some changes and additions, into the series of the *Canterbury Tales*. The Prologue must, of course, have been written subsequently to Petrarch's death in 1374, and the mention of the wife of Bath in line 1170 shows that the conclusion also was a late addition. But though

our poem is distinctly founded, as we have seen, on Petrarch's moralised version, the poetical treatment of the story is so individual, that it all comes afresh from the mind of Chaucer. 'Its pathos is heightened by the humanising touch with which the English poet reconciles the most matter-of-fact reader to its questionable aspects. He feels that the incidents of the myth are against nature, and at every difficult turn of the story, he disarms the realist with a light passage of fence, and wins to his own side the host of readers who have the common English turn for ridicule of an ideal that conflicts with reason.'

The Clerk is one of the most finished portraits in Chaucer's famous group of pilgrims. His description in the Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales* is as follows (lines 285–308):

'A Clerk there was of Oxenford also,
That unto logic hadde long i-go.
As lene was his hors as is a rake,
And he was not right fat, I undertake;
But lokede holwe, and therto soberly.
Ful thredbare was his overeste courtepy (*upper cloak*),
For he hadde geten him yit no benefice,
Ne was so worldly for to have office.
For him was levere have at his beddes heed,
Twenty bookes, clad in blak or reed,
Of Aristotle and his philosophie,
Then robes riche, or fithele, or gay sawtrie.
But al be that he was a philosophre,
Yet hadde he but litel gold in cofre;
But al that he mighte of his frendes hente (*get*),
On bookes and his lernyng he it spente,
And busily gan for the soules preye
Of hem that gaf him wherwith to scoleye (*study*).
Of studie took he most cure and most heede,
Noght o word spak he more than was neede,
And that was seyd in forme and reverence,
And short and quyk, and ful of hy sentence.
Sownynge in moral vertu was his speche,
And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche.'

LINE

3. Were newe spoused, who should be newly married.

5. Sophyme, a sophism or trick of logic. One of the principal branches of study in the middle ages was the Aristotelian philosophy.

6. See Ecclesiastes, iii. 1, where Solomon, the reputed author of this book, says: 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.'

7. **As beth**, I pray you be. *As* is often used thus with the imperative mood. Cf. *Squieres Tale*, 458: '*As doth* your-seluen grace;' *Knightes Tale*, 1444: '*As keep me fro thi vengeaunce*,' &c.

12. **Lent**, the fast of forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing until Easter, observed by many Christian churches in commemoration of the fast of our Saviour. It occurs in spring-time, and the old sense is simply 'spring.' The A.S. *lencten*, spring, is supposed to be derived from *lang*, long, because in spring the days lengthen

16. **Colours** and **figures** are accented *colóurs* and *figúres*. Many French words carried their French accent with them into English usage.

Cf. *manére* (174), *matére* (99 and 175), *favour* (102), *malice* (692), *corage* (220), *visage* (693), *mesure* (256), *stature* (257), &c. There is another allusion here to logic, the principal study of the Clerk, who was the representative of learning among Chaucer's pilgrims.

18. **Hy style**, learned, pedantic style.

19–20. The *Canterbury Tales* are above all popular, and the host is, so to speak, charged with the constant injunction of the cardinal principle of popularity as to both theme and style. The Clerk follows the injunction of the Host by omitting, as 'impertinent' (54), the long geographical and descriptive proem of his original, Petrarch, as well as by adding a facetious moral to the 'ernestful matere' (1175) of his story.

22. **Yerde**, rod, guidance. Cf. our modern expression, 'under the rod.' The word appears also in the phrase, 'to gird at,' to gibe or sneer at; the M. E. *girden*, to strike as with a rod, being derived from *gerde*, a rod, softened to *yerde*, English *yard*. Milton has 'griding' (*Paradise Lost*, vi. 329) from the same root. See also Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, II. viii. 36.

27. **Padowe**, Padua, in the north of Italy. Petrarch lived at Arqua, in the immediate vicinity of Padua. See note on page 66.

29. Petrarch died July 18, 1374.

31. **Fraunceys Petrark**, Francesco Petrarca, the first and greatest lyric poet of Italy, was born at Arezzo, in Tuscany, in 1304. His father was a native of Florence, but had been obliged to go into exile with his party in 1302. The boy was brought up at Avignon, where the papal court was then held, and hither, after seven years spent in the study of law at Montpellier and Bologna, he returned at the age of twenty-two. For some time he gave himself with equal devotion to the pursuit of pleasure and the study of the Latin classics. He became widely known for his scholarship, and he soon numbered among his friends the most illustrious men of his time. A chance meeting with Laura de Noves in a church early in 1327, transformed the dandy and scholar into a great poet. For ten years he lived near her in Avignon, meeting her at church, at festivities, and in society, and he sung her beauty and his love in those imperishable sonnets which ravished the ears of his contemporaries, and have not yet ceased to charm. Laura, who had been married for two years before Petrarch saw her, though not insensible to a worship which spread her name over the civilised world, and made an emperor (Charles IV.) beg to be introduced to her and to be allowed to kiss her forehead, gave no encouragement to the too passionate poet's love, which thus became refined into a dream or ideal romance. So impersonal did it become, that many, even among his contemporaries, have doubted whether Laura was a real personage at all, or anything other than an imaginary ideal of womanhood in a dream of the poet's mind. Petrarch lived for some years in the romantic valley of Vaucluse, devoting himself entirely to literary pursuits. At Rome, on Easter-day, 1341, he was publicly crowned with the laurel of the poet—an honour which tradition told had also been bestowed on Virgil, Horace, and Statius. From 1353, Petrarch lived in Italy, mostly at Milan, and in 1370 he removed to Arqua, where he died peacefully, July 18, 1374. In scholarship, Petrarch takes his place almost as the father of modern learning. He was a most devoted student of Latin literature, and he lavished his time and money in copying and collecting manuscripts. He foresaw a new phase of European culture, and it is as the apostle of humanism, as well as the greatest master of Italian lyrical verse, that his name is still remembered.

33. **Of**, with.

34. Linian. Tyrwhitt points out that this is the once illustrious canonist Giovanni di Lignano. He was made Professor of Canon Law at Bologna in 1363, and here he died in 1383. He was as distinguished in philosophy as in canon law, and his epitaph describes him as 'a second Aristotle, Hippocrates and Ptolemy.'

36. Suffre. The *-re* is slurred over in reading.

37. Eye. This word is pronounced as long *e*, followed by an indistinctly sounded *e*.

38. As Linian died in 1383, this Prologue must have been written after that date. For the date of Petrarch's death, see note to line 31.

43. Proheme. This is the somewhat tedious descriptive introduction already spoken of in note to lines 19–20.

44 Pemond, Piedmont, a province in Northern Italy.——**Saluces,** Saluzzo, south of Turin.

45. Apennyn, the Apennines, the ridge of mountains running throughout Italy, separating in their northern part the plain of **Lombardy** from Piedmont.

47. Mount Vesulus, Monte Viso.

48. Poo, the river Po, which rises on the east side of Monte Viso in the Cottian Alps near the French frontier, flows mainly **eastwards,** and empties into the Adriatic, after a course of 360 miles.

51. To Emelward, towards Æmilia. Tyrwhitt notes that this region was called Æmilia from the *Via Æmilia*, which crossed it from Placentia (Piacenza) to Rimini. Placentia stood upon the Po. Petrarch's description of this part of the course of the Po is a little different. He speaks of it as 'dividing the Æmilian and Flaminian regions from Venice.' —— **Ferrare,** Ferrara, near the mouth of the Po. ——**Venyse,** the province of Venetia.

57–68. This passage is highly praised by Mr Lowell in his fine essay on Chaucer, in *My Study Windows*. He says: 'The first stanza of the *Clerkes Tale* gives us a landscape whose stately choice of objects shows a skill in composition worthy of Claude, the last artist who painted nature epically. The Pre-Raphaelite style of landscape entangles the eye among the obtrusive weeds and grass-blades of the foreground, which, in looking at a real bit of scenery, we overlook; but what a sweep of vision is here! and what happy generalisation in the sixth verse, as the poet turns away to the business of his story! The whole is full of open air.'

73. This line contains in 'strong' and 'yong' an instance of *sectional rime*, or rime existing between syllables contained in the same section of a verse. This was well known to all our early dialects, not as a substitute for alliteration, but merely an addition to it. See Guest's *History of English Rhythms*, Book I., chap. vi.

76. To blame. This is the gerundial infinitive. See Chaucer's Grammar, page 19—Infinitive Mood (*b*).

77. Yonge, the definite form of the adjective.

82. Leet he slyde, he let go, unattended to. Cf. Shakspeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*, Induction vi., where Sly says, 'Let the world slide,' and in Induction ii. 146, 'Let the world slip.'

83–84. Nolde = would not . . . **No.** Two negatives in Chaucer's usage do not make an affirmative.

85. Bar so sore, bore so ill, were so much grieved at.

86. Flokmele, in a troop. Petrarch has *catervatim*. The word is formed from M. E. *floc* (A.S. *flocc*), a flock, and the M. E. termination, *-mele*, *-melum* = A.S. *mælum*, dat. pl. of *mæl*, a portion. Cf. *lim-mele*, limb from limb (literally, 'in limb-pieces'), which occurs in Layamon, and our *piece-meal*, by portions, at a time (literally, 'by piece-pieces').

93. And yiueth. The Ellesmere MS. has 'to yeue.'

93–94. 'As often as it is necessary for us to tell our griefs to you.'

99–100. 'Although I have nothing to do with this matter more than any other man who is here present.'——**Matere.** This word is accented on the second syllable, *matére*. See note to line 16.

101. **Ye.** The marquis is addressed throughout as **ye**, not **thou**, such being more respectful.

106. **So wel vs lyketh yow** = it pleases us so well with regard to you. Here we have a construction with two datives. **Ye** is the nominative case of the pronoun, **yow** the dative and accusative.

107. 'And all your actions at all times have brought it about that,' etc.

111. **Yow leste**, it may please you. **Yow** is in the dative case.

116–117. We often find rhymes in Chaucer formed merely by repeating the syllable. Words repeated as here must be used in different senses. Cf. *Squieres Tale*, 105–106:

'Al be it that I can nat sowne his *style*,
Ne can nat clymben ouer so hy a *style*.'

120. Scan:

'And thóugh | your grêen | e yoûth | e flóur' | as ýit.'

127. **Accepteth.** The plural form of the imperative is used in agreement with 'ye,' the pronoun of address to a superior.

128. **Refuseden.** The full forms of the past tenses of weak verbs, or such as add *-ede* to the stem to form the past tense, are seldom found written as here in full without elision of the final *e* before a vowel following, or abridgement of the medial *e*. Other instances in this poem are *seruede* (line 640), and *hatede* (line 731).——For **your** the Ellesmere MS. has 'thyn.'

130. **Chese yow**, choose for you (yourself).

134. Scan thus:

'Delíuer | us oût | of âl | this bís | y drédê.'

The final syllable is here slurred over. The final syllables slurred in this way are *-en*, *-er*, *-eth*, *-el*, and *-ow*. See Chaucer's Versification, page 24, section 8.

137. **Linage.** The Ellesmere MS. has 'lyne.'

142. **Markis**, in the genitive case.

145. **I me reioyssed of**, I rejoiced in.

147. **Ther**, where.

154. **Prey.** Chaucer often omits the final *e* in the first person singular indicative of verbs.——**Yow.** This the Ellesmere MS. omits.

157. **Bountee**, goodness.——**Streen**, stock, breed.

160. **Mariage**, pronounced as a trisyllable.

163. **Endure**, I will take upon myself to bear.

165. **That what** = whatsoever. The Ellesmere MS. omits 'what.'

168. **As**, as if.

172. **As euer moot I thryue**, as ever I hope to prosper.

174. **But** = unless.——For **swich** the Ellesmere MS. has 'this.'

180. **Of** = for.

194. **Comandement**, pronounced as a word of four syllables.

198. **There as** = there where.

205. **Which that** = who.

208. **Thrope.** This is the dative case.

210. **Highte.** This is the only English verb with a passive sense; thus *he hight* = he was named.

211. For **beautee** the Ellesmere MS. has 'bountee.'

214. **Likerous.** The medial *e* is dropped here in reading.

215. 'Very much more often she drank from the well than the wine cask.'

220. **Rype and sad corage**, a mature and staid disposition.——**Coráge**, with the French accent, see note to line 16.

223. **Spinning**, spinning the while.

227. **Shredde**, cut into slices.——**Seeth**, boiled, seethed.

229. **On-lofte** = aloft. 'And always she kept up (sustained) her father's life.'

230. Scan:

'With eúer | ich óþ | eisaúnce | and dſl | igénce.'

232. Grisilde, with the accent thus, Grisſlde. In line 210 again, this is the unaccented syllable. Again, in line 255 it is Grisſldis. The accent of many words is thus variable for the convenience of rhythm. Cf. in Chaucer, *hónour* and *honoúr*, *mírour* and *miroúr*, *rýial* and *roiâl*, *sólempne* and *solémpne*, &c.

233. Scan:

'Ful óft | e sýthe | this márk | is sétte | his éye.'

——For **sette** the Ellesmere MS. has 'caste.'

237. **In sad wyse**, in a sober or staid manner.

238. The Ellesmere MS. has 'gan' instead of **wolde**.

239. **Wommanhede**, womanhood. The A.S. word is *wíſhád*, wifehood. *Woman* is a corruption of A.S. *wífman*, wife-man, the word *man* being formerly applied like Lat. *homo* to both sexes. The word became *wimman* (pl. *wimmen*) in the 10th century, and this plural is preserved in the spoken language to the present day. In the 12th century, it became *wumman* (just as A.S. *widu* became *wudu*, wood), whence provincial English *wumman;* and lastly, *woman*. Cf. *leman*, from A.S. *léófman* and *Lammas* from A.S. *hláfmæsse*. See Skeat's *Etymological English Dictionary*, under this word.

242. For **haue** the Ellesmere MS. has 'hadde.'

243. Note that *he* is emphatic, perhaps in contrast to 'peple' in the preceding line.

253. **Hath doon make**, hath caused to be made. Cf. 1098: 'hath *doon* yow kept.'

254. **Asure**. Blue was the colour of truth, whence the common expression, 'true blue.' Cf. *Squieres Tale*, 644:

'And by hir beddes heed she made a mewe,
And couered it with veluettes *blewe*,
In signe of trewthe that is in wommen sene.'

The earliest connection of the colour *blue* with truth is perhaps to be traced back to one of the typical garments of the Jewish High Priest, which was a robe all blue. The phrase 'true blue' was first assumed by the Scottish Covenanters in opposition to the scarlet badge of Charles I., and hence it was taken by the troops of Leslie in 1639. The adoption of the colour was one of those religious pedantries in which the Covenanters affected a Pharisaical observance of the letter of Scripture and the usages of the Hebrews; and thus, as they named their children Habakkuk and Zerubbabel, and their chapels Zion and Ebenezer, they decorated themselves with blue ribbons because the following sumptuary precept was given in the law of Moses: 'Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that . . . . they put upon the fringe of the borders a riband of *blue*' (Numbers, xv. 38). See *Notes and Queries*, First Series, vol. iii. pp. 116 and 194.

257. Scan:

'Bý | a maý'd | e, lſk | to hír | statúrē.'

This license of making the first foot consist of a single accented syllable was first pointed out by Professor Skeat, who quotes as examples of nine-syllable lines from Mr Tennyson's *Vision of Sin*:

'*Thén* | methought I heard a hollow sound
Gáth | ering up from all the lower ground.'

260. **Vndern** (literally 'the intervening period'), mid-forenoon, about 9 A.M. The A.S. *undern* meant, as here, the third hour, about 9 A.M.; later, it meant about 11 A.M.; and, still later, mid-afternoon, about 3 P.M.

265. **Maystow**, for *mayst thou*. Cf.

wostow (line 325), and also *shaltow*, *artow*, *wiltow*.

266. **Last** = lasteth, extends. Other instances of a similar contraction of the third person singular of the present tense from stems ending in *d* or *t*, are *sit* for *sitteth*, *bit* for *biddeth*, *stant* for *standeth*, *writ* for *writeth*, *sent* for *sendeth* (line 1151).

276. **Went**, gone. *Went* is now used only as the past tense of *go*. M. E. *wenden* from A.S. *wendan*, to turn, a causal form of *windan*, to turn. The past tense was *wende*, which became *wente*, and finally, *went*.

293. Scan:

'And wíth | sad cón | tenán | ce knél | eth stíllë.'

Many French nouns retained in this way their final *e* after being introduced into our language.

299. Scan:

'Answér | de, lórd | he ís | al réd | y hére.'

Cf. *Squieres Tale*, 599:

'What he *answérdè* it nedeth nat reherce.'

315. **Sone** pronounced as a dissyllable, *sonë*. The *e* here corresponds to the A.S. final vowel *u*, *sunu*, a son. Cf. stedë from A.S. *stéda*, banë from A.S. *bana*, cuppë from A.S. *cuppe*.

321, 322. **Gouerneth.** Janicula addresses his lord as 'ye' and 'yow,' and uses the plural of the imperative as more respectful.

325. **Wostow** = wost thou, knowest thou. See line 265, and note thereon.

327. **Reule hir**, 'rule herself,' 'guide her conduct.'

339. **Woned.** For the double participial ending in this word, see the Glossary. With it compare the modern forms *hoist-ed* and *graft-ed*, as if from verbs *hoist*, *graft*, in place of the older and more correct forms *hoist* for *hoised*, from *hoise*; and *graft* for *graffed*, from *graff*. So also our *interest-ed*, from *interest* for *interessed*, from the older verb *interess*.

342. **Arn**, are. This is a northern form, Old Northumbrian *aron*, as distinguished from A.S. (Wessex) *sindon*. See Glossary, under **Arn**. Before the Norman Conquest, there were two principal dialects in our language, a northern and a southern. The southern was the literary language, and in it are written almost all our oldest books. Its grammar is very uniform, and its vocabulary free from Scandinavian terms. The northern dialect has a very scanty literature. It has a considerable admixture of Scandinavian words, and a number of grammatical inflections unknown to the southern. Some of the principal points in which the northern dialect differs from the southern are these:

(*a*) The loss of *n* in the infinitive ending of verbs; as N. *drinc-a* = S. *drinc-an*, to drink.

(*b*) The first person singular indicative ending in *u* or *o* instead of *e*; as N. *drinc-o* = S. *drinc-e*, I drink.

(*c*) The second person singular present indicative, and the second person singular perfect indicative of weak verbs, ending in *-s* rather than *-st*; as N. *thu ge plantad-es* = S. *ge plantod-est*, thou hast planted.

(*d*) The third person singular, the third person plural present indicative, and the second person plural imperative, frequently ending in *s* instead of *th*; as N. *he gewyrces* = S. *gewyrcath*, he works; and N. *hia onfoas* = S. *hi onfoath*, they receive.

(*e*) The occasional omission of *ge* before the passive participle; as N. *hered* = S. *geherod*, praised; N. *bledsed* = S. *gebletsod*, blessed.

(*f*) The occasional use of the active participle in *-and* instead of *-end*; as N. *drincande* = S. *drincende*, drinking. (We find this surviving even in Spenser.)

(*g*) Plurals ending in *a*, *u*, *o*, or *e*, instead of *-an*; as N. *heorta* =

S. *heortan*, hearts; N. *witegu* = S. *witegan*, prophets; N. *egu* = S. *eagan*, eyes; N. *nome* = S. *naman*, names.

(*h*) *-es* used instead of *-e* as the genitive suffix of feminine nouns.

(*i*) *The* and *thio* found for *se* (masculine) and *seo* (feminine) = the.

(*j*) The plural article *tha* occurring for the demonstrative pronoun *hi* = they.

After the Norman Conquest, the dialects became more marked; and in the 13th and 14th centuries, we can distinguish three great varieties of English—the northern, midland, and southern. For the chief points of difference between these, see Chaucer's Grammar, page 13; and Dr Morris's *Historical Outlines of English Accidence*, chapter iv.

346. **Stonde**, be fixed.

350. **Auyse**, take the matter into consideration. Skeat quotes the legal formula, *le roy s'avisera*, for expressing the royal refusal to a proposed measure.

353. **Do**, 'cause you to laugh or feel grieved.'

357. For **our** the Ellesmere MS. reads 'yow.'

364. 'Even if I were to die for it, though it would be very hard to me to die.' **Me** is dative, the construction being impersonal.

375. **Ladyes**, pronounce as a trisyllable, *ladyës*.

376. Scan:

'To hándle | hir clóth | es whér | in shé | was clád.'

The last syllable is sometimes slurred over in this way. See note to line 134, and Chaucer's Versification, page 24, section 8.

379. **Kembd**. The final *-ed* of the past participle in weak verbs is usually a distinct syllable, but we find a tendency to change the *-ed* into *-d*; and even when it is written as *-ed*, it is often sounded as *-d*, as *undressed* in this line, and *ydressed* in line 381.

381. **Corone**, a nuptial garland. Among our ancestors, after the benediction in the church, both the bride and bridegroom were crowned with chaplets of flowers.

384. Scan:

'Unnéthe | the péple | hir knew | for hir | fairnéssë.'

389. **Lette**, delayed, used intransitively.

392. In *sonne*, the sun, the final *e* corresponds to the A.S. final vowel in *sunne*, and is therefore essential. See Chaucer's Versification, page 23, 6, i. The most frequent vowel endings of A.S. nouns were *a*, *e*, *u*. All three were, in the 14th century, represented by the *e* final. A.S. nouns in *a* are masculine, as *nama*, a name; *tíma*, time; *móna*, the moon. Nouns in *e* belong to various genders. Many are feminines and neuters with inflections like *nama*, *tíma*, and *móna*. Such are *sunne*, the sun; *heorte*, the heart; *róse*, the rose, feminines; *éare*, the ear, is neuter. Nouns in *u* are generally feminine, as *scólu*, school; *lufu*, love; *sceamu*, shame; *lagu*, law; but there are some masculine, as *sunu*, a son; *wudu*, a wood.

397. **Rudenesse**, pronounced in four syllables.

403. Scan:

'Vnnéth | e trów | ed they, | but dórst' | han swórë.'

405. For **nas** the Ellesmere and Harleian MSS. read 'were.'

409. **Thewes**, qualities of mind. This is the invariable meaning of the word in M. E., and indeed down to the 16th century. It is so used by Spenser, who of course is affectedly archaic in his use of words. Cf. *Faerie Queene*, I. x. 4:

'The mother of three daughters, well upbrought
In goodly *thewes*, and godly exercise.'

In Shakspeare, the word always means *sinews, strength*, and to this sense the word is now confined. Cf. *Henry IV., Part II.*, III. ii. 276: 'Care I for the limb, the *thewes*, the

stature, bulk, and big assemblance of a man;' also *Julius Cæsar*, I. iii. 81; and *Hamlet*, I. iii. 12.

412. **Embrace**, take hold of, make impression upon.

415. For **bountee**, the Ellesmere MS. has 'beautee.'

418. For **fame**, the Ellesmere MS. reads 'name.'

421. **Roially**, because the virtues of Griselda were royal.

425. For **low**, the Ellesmere MS. reads 'heigh.'

436. Scan:

'If gén | til mén, | or óther | of hír | contrée.'

The last syllable of 'othere' is slurred over in reading. See note to line 134.

439. **Iugements**, a trisyllable. The plural in *-ës* is used where the stem is monosyllabic. When the stem has two or more syllables, the plural ending is written *-s* (or *-s*), and sometimes *-es*, in which case the ending does not make an additional syllable. Another plural in *-s* is *subgets*, line 482.

444. 'Although it would have been liefer (she would rather have) to her to have borne a male child.'——**Knaue**, A.S. *cnafa*, *cnapa*, a boy. Cf. Dutch *knaap*, a lad, Icelandic *knapi*, a servant-boy, German *knabe*, a boy. According to Skeat, these words are all of Celtic origin, as the Celtic boys were *servants* to the Teutons. Cf. Gaelic *cnapach*, a youngster.——For **knaue**, the Ellesmere MS. reads 'man.' So also in lines 447 and 612.

449. **Tymes mo** = at more times, at other times.

452. **To knowe**, the gerund.

469. **Gesse** means simply 'to think,' as still in New England.

480. **Gentils.** Adjectives of one syllable usually form the plural by adding *-ë*. In words of two or more syllables, the *-ë* drops off. The word *gentils* is considered as a noun, and follows the ordinary rule of nouns. So *subgets* in line 482.

482. **Subgets.** See note to line 480.

483. **Thee** is much less respectful than *ye*. In lines 484 and 489 we have *thy*, but *your* again in line 492 and in 496. Griselda addresses her lord with *your*, lines 501 and 504; *yow*, 506; and *ye*, 508. The sergeant again addresses Griselda as *ye*, 526 and 528.

496. **Hyghte**, promised. A.S. *hátan*, to promise, past tense *héht*, past participle *háten*. The word still survives in Scotch. It occurs in the Scotch ballad, *Willy drowned in Yarrow:*

'And Willy *hecht* to marry me
Gin e'er he married ony.'

504. **Thing**, possession.

508. **Dredē**, a dissyllable.

516. 'Soon after this, about as long as one would take to go the length of a furlong or two.'

519. **A maner sergeant**, a kind of sergeant. Cf. 'maner wyse,' 605; 'maner wyght,' *Squieres Tale*, 138 and 329; 'maner doctrine,' *Prioresses Tale*, 1689; and 'maner thing,' *Monkes Tale*, 3951.

523. **Louede and dradde.** Read 'lov'd' and draddē.'

525. **Stalked him**, marched himself.

533. His cruel purpose is indicated with great skill by his abruptly breaking off.

535. **Chere**, 'and began to make a face (to look) as though,' &c.

547. **Atte laste**, at the last. So also 'atte leste,' 130, 570; 'atte fulle,' 749.

548. **Preyde**, pronounced 'preydē.' In line 680, 'preyede him,' pronounced 'preyēd' him.'

559. **Him**, to him, dative case.

570–571. **That** should have been followed by 'ye burie' in next line, instead of the imperative 'burieth.'

572. **To-race**, may scratch or tear to pieces. This prefix *to-*, A.S. *tó-*, meaning 'in twain,' 'asunder,' is cognate with German *zer-*; Gothic *dis-* (*d* standing for *t* as in Gothic *du* = English to), Latin *dis-*, Greek *di-* (only used in the sense of 'double'). It occurs in about fifty

A.S. verbs, as *tō-beran*, to bear apart, remove, *tō-berstan*, to burst asunder, *tō-brecan*, to break asunder, &c. *All* was often added as a kind of intensive, meaning 'wholly,' not only before the prefix *to-* only, but before the prefixes *for-* and *bi-* also, and ultimately the *all* came to be considered as belonging to the *to-* (as if *all-to* were short for *altogether*), and consequently *all-to* appeared as a sort of adverb, and was considered as such by Surrey and Latimer. No instance of this later use occurs before 1500. Most verbal prefixes (such as *for-* and *be-*) were written in old MSS. apart from the verb, and this rendered the error more easy. It is still retained in our English Bible, Judges ix. 53, where 'all to-brake' is often incorrectly printed 'all-to brake.' See the thorough discussion of the question in Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary*.

583. **Sholdē**, a dissyllable. It is seldom pronounced as a monosyllable.

585. Scan:

'And cárie | it ín | a cófre | or ín | a láppë.'

586. 'But on the penalty of having his head cut off.'

589. **Bologne**, a trisyllable. This is Bologna.

591. Scan:

'He shóld | ' it táke | and shéw | ' hir thís | matérë.'

See line 583, and the note thereon.

602. **Euer in oon**, always in one and the same state. See also 677.

603. **Humble**, pronounced 'humbl'.'

607. 'No accidental or unusual appearance, as if in consequence of some calamity, was seen in her.'

608. **Hir doughter name**, her daughter's name. *Doughter* here is in the genitive case. See note to line 1136.

610. **Yeer.** Many nouns in the oldest English, originally neuter and flectionless in the plural, have the same form for the singular and the plural, as *winter*, *night*, *deer*, *folk*, *thing*, *horse*, *foot*, &c. We still say a *fortnight* (= fourteen nights), *sevennight* (= seven nights), 'six *foot* high,' 'ten *score*,' 'twelve *stone* weight.' *Deer*, *sheep*, *swine*, and *neat* still admit of no plural sign whatever, but these words have acquired a kind of collective sense; cf. the use of *fish*, *fowl*, *fruit*, *gross*, *fathom*, &c.

615. **Merīe**, a trisyllable.

625. **Sikly berth**, 'bear hardly,' 'dislike.'

626. In 'namely,' the *e* is slurred over; in 'sone,' the *e* is elided before *y*.

634. **Out of drede**, out of doubt, certainly.

640. Scan:

'As I' | his súsˌ | ter sér | uedé | by nightē.'

648. The final *-er* in 'doughter' is slurred over in reading; *sone* is a dissyllable, the *e* corresponds to the A.S. termination *u*. See note to line 392.

653. **At** = for, after *axe*. 'To ask at anyone' is still used in Scotch.

663. Scan:

'Al youˌr | plesánc | ē férm | 'and stábl | ' I hóldē.'

666. 'The pain of death is not to be compared to the pleasure of your love.'

675. **Worsē**, a dissyllable.

680. Scan:

'Saue thís; | she prév | ed' hím | that íf | he mýghtē.'

687. **Euer lenger**, 'ever the more the longer he thinks of it.' *The* here is the old instrumental case of the demonstrative pronoun *the*. It is the A.S. *thý*, as in *thý mare* = Latin *eo magis*. This use of *the* before comparatives is the only remnant in modern English of the old instrumental case.——**Wondred**, all the other MSS. but the Ellesmere read 'wondreth.'

690. **Lousde**, pronounced 'lov'dē.'

695. Scan:

She lóu'd | ' hir chíld | ren bést | in éu | ery wýsë.'

699. **Wyfhod**, womanhood. This is the usual word, not 'wommanhede,' as in 239 and 1075.

704. For **a** the Ellesmere MS. reads 'that.'

706–707. **Purposed**, purpos'd; **disposed**, dispos'd.

711. **Ay oon**, ever the same.

713–714. **Possible**, pronounced 'possibl';' **penible**, 'penibl'.' **Penible**, painstaking.

718. **Thanked**, pronounced 'thankëd.'

719–721. 'She showed clearly that for no worldly trouble should a wife of herself have in practice any will different from that of her husband.'

722. **Sclaundre of**; slander (bad report) about.

724. **For** = because that.

730. Scan:

'Had loũ'd | him wél, | the sclaúndre | of his | diffámë.'

731. **Hatede**, a trisyllable. Cf. 'seruede' (singular) in line 640.

733. **Ernest.** We still use the word in the noun form in the phrase 'in earnest.'

738. **Message** for messenger.

748 and 750. **Peple.** The final syllable elided in both cases.

771–772. Girls were frequently married at twelve years of age. Cf. the *Preamble of the Wyves Tale of Bathe*, 4:

'For, lordynges, sith I twelf yeer was of age,
Housbondes at chirche dore I have had fyve.'

780. **Seuen.** The *-en* is slurred over in reading.

785. In **after**, the *-er* is slurred over.

793. Note that the marquis uses **yow** and **your** in this speech to Griselda. See note to line 483.

797. **If I wel auyse**, if I am well advised.

818. **I ne heeld**, a trisyllabic measure.

820. **Lady** means literally 'loaf-kneader.' A.S. *hlâfdige—hlâf*, a loaf; and probably *dægee*, a kneader, from the root seen in Gothic *digan*, to knead; and in English *dike* and *dairy*. ——**Lord** means literally 'loaf-keeper.' A.S. *hlâford*, probably for a supposed form, *hlâfweard*, a loaf-ward—*hlâf*, a loaf, and the root of *ward*.

828. **Honour**, pronounced here 'hónour,' but 'honoûr' in line 1021. See note to line 232.

846. **Whylom**, *whílum* is the instrumental or dative plural of *hwíl*, meaning 'at times.' Other adverbs from datives are *ever* (A.S. *æfre*), *never* (A.S. *næfre*) (from *piece*, *piece-meal*, of French origin, and A.S. *mælum*, in pieces). *The while*, *ay*, *some deal*, *alway*, *otherwise*, etc., are due to the accusative. Many, as *needs*, are due to genitives.

850. **Were**, in agreement with 'clothes.'

855. **Algate**, in all respects, formed from 'all' and 'gate,' a way. Cf. *alway*, A.S. *ealne weg*, where both words are in the accusative singular. Later forms are: *alne way*, *al way*, and *alway*. The occasional use of the genitive singular, and the common habit of using the genitive singular suffix *-es* as an adverbial suffix, have produced the second form *always*. Other old accusatives that now have a genitive form are: *sideways*, *sometimes*, *the whilst*, *straightways*, &c.

857. 'Love when it is old is not what it was when it was new.' These fine lines (851–861) are Chaucer's own. Cf. the lines in the beautiful and anonymous Scottish ballad (first published in Allan Ramsay's *Tea Table Miscellany*, in 1724):

'O waly, waly, but love be bonny,
A little time while it is new,
But when 'tis auld, it waxeth cauld,
And fades away like the morning-dew.'

871. Doubtless suggested by Job i. 21.

873. **Plesance**, a trisyllable, as in line 663.

892. **Wel vnnethes**, 'very uneasily,' 'with great difficulty.'——**Thilke**, that, the same. The A.S. *thylc, thýlic* is formed from *thý*, the instrumental case of *seo, seo, thæt*, and *lic*, like; thus corresponding to Latin *ta-lis*, Sanskrit *ta-drisha;* Greek *tēlikos. Ilk* is still used in Scotland in the phrase 'of that *ilk*' (as 'Buchanan of that *ilk*' = of that *same*), when the name of a property is the same as the family name.

902. See Job iii. 3.

903. **A lyues creature**, a living creature. **Lyues** is used here as an adverb. It is the genitive singular of the noun *lyf;* A.S. *líf*, genitive *lífes*, dative *lífe*, plural *lífas*. Other adverbs formed from genitives are: *needes, whiles, twies*, &c. The preposition *of* has taken the place of the genitive adverbial suffix, as *of necessity, of course, of purpose, of a truth*, &c. In some cases we have *of* (or *in, at, a, on*) with the old genitive, as *anights, of mornings, on Sundays, now-a-days* (= *now-on dayes*), *indoors*.

905. **Euer**, pronounced *eu'r*, also in line 926.——**Suspect**, accented *súspect*.

911. **Agayns**, towards. The word is formed from A.S. *ongeán* by adding the genitive adverbial suffix *-es*. The *on-* is the A.S. and modern English *on-*, generally used in the sense of *in; geán*, again, related to the noun *gang*, 'a going,' 'a way,' or at least to the verb *gán*, to go.

916–917. 'For the cloth was rough and many days older than it was at the time of her marriage.'

934. **Namely of men**, 'especially of men.'

935. 'Though clerks give but little praise to women.' Many of the monkish stories, as in the *Disciplina Clericalis* and *Gesta Romanorum*, turn on the faults and weaknesses of women. These monkish inmates of the cloister had no opportunity of learning the real nature of women at its best amid the sweetness and purity of domestic life, and their pages teem with the foolish imaginations of a prurient and childish ignorance. How sweet and wholesome are the words of Chaucer contrasted with the prevailing tone of the tales, in prose and verse, of his own as well as former times!

'Ther can no man in humblesse him acquite
As womman can, ne can ben half so trewe
As wommen ben.'

And with what fine raillery the *Wife of Bath* asserts her plea for the other side!

... 'If women had but written stories
As clerkes have within their oratories,
They would have writ of men more wickednesse
Than all the race of Adam may redresse.'

No doubt Chaucer's poetry contains many hard hits at the foibles of women, but most of these show that curiously intimate acquaintance with their ways, which implies a close and kindly observation, and an interest reminding us of the delicate touch of Addison in the *Spectator*. As a youth, Chaucer saw the true glory of love in a devoted wife when he sang of Alcestis; and in his maturest years, his ideal of love is still the devoted wife, when he sings of the perfect meekness of Griselda, 'the flour of wyfly pacience.' The two most effective of his *Canterbury Tales* are tributes to the most distinctly feminine and wifely virtue of fidelity, and these come as well from the wide and grave experience of the world of the Man of Law, as from the cloistered solitude of the Clerk of Oxenford.

938. **But it be falle of-newe**, 'unless it has happened very recently.'

940. **To more and lesse**, 'to greater and smaller,' 'to everybody.'

941. **Alle and some**, 'one and all.'

948. **Sely**, simple, innocent. This word meant originally 'timely,' then 'lucky,' 'happy,' 'innocent,' and lastly, 'foolish.' In some parts of Scotland it still means 'weak in health or strength.' Other instances of words that have suffered a similar degradation of meaning are *knave*, *villain*, *boor*, *varlet*, *menial*, *paramour*, *minion*, *wench*, &c.

963. The marquis addresses Griselda here with 'thyn' and 'thou,' and she replies with 'yow' (969 and 973). See note to line 483.

965. **Yuel biseye**, 'ill beseen,' 'evil to look on.' Scan:

'Though thȳn | arráy | be bádd' | and ȳu'l | biséyē.'

981. See note to line 260.

984. **Richely biseye**, 'rich to look at,' the opposite of 'yuel biseye' in line 965.

993. Scan:

'That hém | to séen | the pepl' | hath caught | plesáncē.'

995–1008. These lines are not in Petrarch. Chaucer, as an adherent of the court, had little knowledge of the poor or sympathy with their political aspirations. He was not a man of the people like his contemporary William of Langland, with his heart full of hopeless bitterness at the misery of the poor man's life, and the extortions of the rich and powerful.

995. **Vnsad**, unsettled.

999. 'Ever full of idle talk, dear enough at a farthing.'—**Iane**, a very small coin, properly of Genoa.

1002. **Sadde folk**, 'more serious folk.'

1011. **Abayst**, abashed. The *-ed* ending before a vowel or *h* is sounded as *-d*. It has here become *-t*.

1012. **To-rent**, rent or torn in pieces. See note to line 572.

1021. **Honour**, pronounced here 'honoúr;' see, however, *hónour* in line 828, and note to line 232.

1031. **How lyketh thee**, how pleases thee.

1039. **Mo**, 'more,' 'others' = another. Tyrwhitt suggests that Chaucer wrote 'mo' instead of 'me' for the sake of rime, and notes this as one of the 'most licentious corruptions' that he has observed in Chaucer; but Professor Skeat, in his edition of the *Clerkes Tale*, observes that this use of *mo*, though not common, occurs in some other instances, and that it is an intentional expression of a hint of extreme delicacy. 'The use of *me* would have been a *direct* charge of unkindness, spoiling the whole story.'

1037–1043. The perfect patience of Griselda reaches its highest point in these beautiful and touching lines.

1049. **Gan his herte dresse**, 'began to prepare his heart.'

1052. **Agast**, terrified. *Agast* is short for *agasted*, past participle of M. E. *agasten*, to terrify, from A.S. prefix *á-* and *gæstan*, allied to Gothic *us-gais-jan*, to terrify. *Ghost* is from the same root. Shakspeare has *gasted* (*King Lear*, II. i. 57), and *gastness* (*Othello*, V. i. 106).

1053. The Marquis once more uses the more respectful 'thy.'

1056. For **goode**, all the other MSS. save the Ellesmere read 'dere.'

1066. **That other**, referring to the boy.

1067. **Purposed** occurs in three of the MSS.; the reading of three (including the Ellesmere and Harleian) is 'supposed,' one (the Petworth) has 'disposed.'

1068. **Bare**. The final *e* in the second person singular of strong verbs is often omitted. In this case, of course, it is not sounded, coming before *him*.

1071. **Non**, either.

1079. Skeat quotes the following fine passage from Morley's *English Writers* (Vol. II., Part I., p. 324): 'And when Chaucer has told all, and dwelt with an exquisite pathos of natural emotion, all his own, upon the patient

mother's piteous and tender kissing of her recovered children—for there is nothing in Boccaccio, and but half a sentence in Petrarch, answering to those four beautiful stanzas (1079–1106)—he rounds all, as Petrarch had done, with simple sense, which gives religious meaning to the tale, then closes with a lighter strain of satire, which protects Griselda herself from the mocker.'

1090–1092. 'Now I care not to be dead (to die) just now, since I stand in your love and favour, it is no matter for death nor when my spirit may pass away.'

1098. **Hath doon yow kept** = hath caused you to be kept.

1100. **Swough**, swoon. The M. E. *swowen*, *swoghen* is from the A.S. *swógan*, to resound. *Sigh* and *swoon* seem to be allied words as well as *sough*.

1108. **Arace**, to remove forcibly. The Old French *aracer* is from Latin *eradicare*, from *e*, out of, and *radicem*, accusative of *radix*, a root.

1117. **Bryghte**. The adverb was usually formed thus, by adding *e* to the adjective. This *e* has now vanished, and where another adverbial suffix (commonly *-ly*) has not taken its place, the word robbed of its syllable is considered as the adjective used adverbially. It is, however, the legitimate though corrupt descendant of the old adverb. The superlative of the adjective ends in *ste*, that of the adverb in *st*.

1125. **Solempne**, pronounced *solémpne*. The word is accented variously. Cf. *sólempne* (*Squieres Tale*, 61), and *solémpne* (*ib.* 111).

1133 and 1134. These are lines of eleven syllables, as also 1109. The final *-eth* in each of these lines is redundant.

1136. **Fader day**, father's day. *Fader* here is in the genitive case, like *doughter* in line 608. *Fader*, *brother*, and *doughter* took no inflection for the genitive singular. This was also the case with feminine nouns whose oldest genitive was *an*, which was broken down into *ë*, and then disappeared. In Chaucer, we find *ladyveil* and *widow sone*. This still survives in *hell-fire*, *Lady-day*, etc.

1141. **Auctour**, Petrarch. See note to line 31.

1148. **Hy style**. Cf. line 41.

1151. **In gree**, with submission.—**Sent**, for *sendeth*. Cf. *last* = lasteth, in line 266, and the note thereon.

1152. 'For there is great reason that he should prove what he has created.'

1153. **Boughte**, redeemed.

1154. See James i. 13. 'This epistle gives,' says Morley (p. 325), 'the spiritual doctrine to which Petrarch, and after him Chaucer, would apply the tale of Griselda's patience. Having pointed to this moral, the Clerk of Oxford ends cheerily. Nowadays, Griselds are very hard to find; wherefore, and for love of the wife of Bath, he will say them a song, and so he ends with a playful touch of satire in the *Envoy*.'

1155. **It is no drede**, 'there is no fear,' 'beyond doubt.' Cf. 'out of drede' = certainly, 636.

1162. At this point Petrarch concludes, and from this point to the end the lines are Chaucer's own.

1177. The metre changes here from the ordinary seven-line stanza to a six-line stanza. All the stanzas are connected together by a sequence of the same rimes, there being but three rimes throughout, *-ence* in the first and third line of every stanza, *-aille* in the second, fourth, and sixth, and *-ynde* in the fifth line. There are thus thirty-six consecutive rimes. These are all *feminine* rimes, or rimes that are more than monosyllabic rimes like *fire*, *tire*, &c. The rime of these stanzas may be expressed in a formula similar to that given for the ordinary seven-line stanza on page 22, thus: *a b a b c b*.

1178. **Atones**, at once. A.S. *æt*,

at, and *ánes*, once, the genitive of *án*, one.

1188. **Chicheuache** (literally, 'lean cow'), a beast in mediæval romance that fed on patient wives. Tyrwhitt notes that the allusion is to the subject of an old ballad still preserved. It is an ancient kind of Pageant, in which two beasts are introduced, called Bycorne and Chichevache. The first is supposed to feed upon *obedient husbands*, and the other upon *patient wives;* and the humour of the piece consists in representing *Bycorne* as pampered with a superfluity of food, and Chichevache as half starved. *Chiche* is of French origin. It appears in Chaucer's *Tale of Melibeus:* 'scarsetee and *chyngerie*' (*Canterbury Tales*, line 7912), and in *The Romaunt of the Rose* (line 5591):

'For he that hath mycches (*loaves*) tweyne,
Ne value in his demeigne
Lyveth more at ese, and more is riche,
Than doth he that is *chiche*.'

1189. **Polweth**, imitate Echo, who always gives back her answer.

1190. **At the countretaille**, at the counter-tally, in return.

1200. 'Always chatter on like a mill.'

1204. **Auentail.** Skeat notes that this was the lower half in the movable part of a helmet which admitted air, called by Spenser the *ventayle*, *Faerie Queene*, III. ii. 24; IV vi. 19; V. viii 12; and by Shakspeare the *beaver*, *Hamlet*, I. ii. 230. He quotes further from Douce's *Illustrations of Shakespeare*, that the movable part of the helmet in front was made in two parts, which turned on hinges at the sides of the head. The upper part is the *visor*, to admit of vision; the lower the *ventail*, to admit of breathing. Both parts could be removed from the face, but only by lifting them *upwards*, and throwing them *back*. If the visor alone were lifted, only the upper part of the face was exposed; but if the *ventail* were lifted, the visor also went with it.

1207. **Ther**, where.

1211. 'As light as a leaf on a linden-tree' was formerly a common proverb. See *Piers Plowman*, Passus i. 154:

'Was neuere leef vpon lynde lighter ther-after.'

ETYMOLOGICAL GLOSSARY AND INDEX.

The following abbreviations are used: A.S. = Anglo-Saxon (English down to about 1150); M. E. = Middle English (from that time to about 1500); O. Fr. = Old French; Fr. = French (modern); Ger. = German; Dut. = Dutch; Scand. = Scandinavian; Icel. = Icelandic; L. = Latin; Gr. = Greek; *art.* = article; *n.* = noun; *v.* = verb; *pron.* = pronoun; *adj.* = adjective; *adv.* = adverb; *prep.* = preposition; *conj.* = conjunction; *interj.* = interjection; *part.* = participle; *pp.* = past participle; *pr.* = present; *pt.* = past; *p.* = person; *t.* = tense; *s.* = singular; *pl.* = plural; *comp.* = comparative; *superl.* = superlative; *subj.* = subjunctive; *imp.* = imperative; *impers.* = impersonal; *masc.* = masculine; *fem.* = feminine; *neut.* = neuter; *interrog.* = interrogative; cf. (Lat. *confer*) = compare; *gen.* = genitive; *dat.* = dative; *acc.* = accusative; *def.* = definite form of the adjective; cog. = cognate; the symbol — means 'directly derived from.' The numbers refer to the line of the *Clerkes Tale* in which the word occurs. A knowledge of the principal prefixes and suffixes in use in the English language is assumed.

A

A, *art.* 2, 4, etc., a; **al a** = the whole of a, 1165. A.S. *án.*

A, *prep.* on, in, by; **now a dayes** = now in these days, 1164. A.S *on.*

Abayst, *pp.* abashed, 317, 1011; **abayssed**, amazed, 1108. O. Fr. *esbahir* (Fr. *ébahir*), made up of O. Fr. *es-* (= L. *ex*, out, very much), and *bahir*, to express wonder, a word of imitative origin from the interj. *bah!* of astonishment.

Abouen, *prep.* above, 826. A.S. *ábúfan*, short for *an-be-ufan*, literally 'on-by-upward.'

Abouten, *prep.* about, near, 1106. A.S. *ábútan*, *onbútan*, short for *on-be-útan* literally 'on-by-outward.'

Abreyde, *v. pt. s.* started, 1061. A.S. *abregdan*, to twist out; *bregdan*, to weave. From the same root is *-braid* in up*braid.*

Abyde, *v.* to remain, 1106; *pres. part.* **abyding**, awaiting, 757. A.S. *ábídan*, *á* (= Ger. *er-*), *bídan*, to wait.

Accepteth, *v. imp. pl.* accept, 96, 127. Fr. *accepter*—L. *acceptare*, a frequentative of *accipere*, to receive, *ac-* (= *ad-*) and *capere.*

Accident, *n.* an unusual appearance, 607. Fr.—L. *accident-*, stem of pr. part. of *accidere*, to happen, *ac-* (for *ad-*) and *cadere*, to fall.

Acquyte, *v.* to acquit one's self, 936. O. Fr. *aquiter*—Low L. *acquietare*—L. *ac-* (for *ad-*), to, *quietare*, formed from *quietus*, discharged, originally 'quiet.'

After, *prep.* according to, 327. A.S. *æfter*, a comp. form, meaning 'more off,' 'further off,' made up of root *af* (= Gr. *apo*, E. *of*) and the comp. suffix *-ter.*

After that, *conj.* according as, 203.

Agast, *pp.* terrified, 1052. Short for *agast-ed*, pp. of M. E. *agasten*, to terrify—A.S. *á-*, prefix, and *gæstan*, to frighten.

Agayn, *adv.* again, 1070; **ageyn**, 575. More commonly *ayein* — A.S. *ongegn*, *ongeán.*

Agayns, *prep.* towards, 911. The modern form is *against*, extended from the M. E. form with *adv.*

suffix *-es*. A.S. *ongeán*, made up of *on* and *geán*, again, which is perhaps connected with *gán*, to go.

Age, *n.* life, 627. O. Fr. *edage*—Low L. *ætaticum*—L. *ætat-*, stem of *ætas*, age.

Agoon, *pp.* departed, dead, 631. A.S. *ágán*, pp. of v. *ágán*, to pass by.

Agreued, *pp.* aggrieved, 500. O. Fr. *agrever*, to overwhelm—L. *gravari*, to burden, *gravis*, heavy.

Al, *adv.* completely, as in '*all* to-brake' in Judges, ix. 53; and *Knightes Tale*, 1899: '*al* is to-brosten thilke regioun;' *conj.* although, 99.

Al, *pl.* **alle**, *adj.* all, 1165; **alle and some**, one and all, 941. A.S. *eal*, pl. *ealle*, cog. with Icel. *allr*, Gothic *alls*, pl. *allai*, &c.

Alayes, *n. pl.* alloy, 1167. O. Fr. *a lai*, according to rule—L. *ad legem*, 'according to law,' the phrase used with reference to the mixing of metals in coinage.

Algate, *adv.* in all respects, 855. Literally 'all gates,' made up of *all* and *gate* = way. Cf. *always*, which is compounded in the same way. *Gate* in this sense is Scand., and is still used in the north of England and in Scotland. Cf. Icel. *gata*, a way.

Alliance, *n.* alliance, marriage, 357. O. Fr. *alier*, to bind up—L. *al-* (= *ad-*) and *ligare*, to bind.

Alwey, *adv.* always, 458, 810. The M. E. *alles weis*, in every way, is a gen. case—A.S. *ealne weg*, every way, an acc. case. See also **Algate**.

Alyghte, *v.* to alight, 981. M. E. *alihten* stands for *of-lihten*, the prefix *a-* being = A.S. *on*. The simple form *lihtan* occurs in A.S. from *leóht*, light.

Alyue, *adv.* alive, 139. Not originally an adj. but for *a liue*—A.S. *on lífe*, in life, hence 'alive.' *Lífe* is the dat. case of *líf*, life.

Ambling, *pr. part.* ambling, 388. O. Fr. *ambler*, to go at an easy pace—L. *ambulare*, to walk.

Amoued, *v. pt. s.* moved, 498. Through O. Fr. from L. *amovere*, to move away.

And, *conj.* if, 16, 29, etc. A.S. *and*.

Anoon, *adv.* immediately, 435; **anon**, 772, 806. A.S. *on án*, literally 'in one (moment).'

Answerde, *v. pt. s.* answered, 21. A.S. *andswerian—and-*, against, in reply, and *swerian*, to swear, to speak.

A-nyghte, *adv.* in the night, 464. A.S. *on níhte*, in the night.

Apayed, *pp.* pleased, 1052. O. Fr. *apaisier*, to pacify—*a pais*, to a peace—L. *ad pacem*, to a peace.

Apennyn, the Apennines, 45.

Aperceyue, *v.* to perceive, 600; *pr. s.* **aperceyueth**, 1018. Fr. *apercevoir*—L. *ad-*, and *percipere*.

Apertinent, *adj.* suitable, 1010. O. Fr. *apartenir*—L. *ad-* and *pertinere—per*, thoroughly, and *tenere*, to hold.

Apese, *v.* to appease, 433. See **Apayed**.

Apparaille, *n.* dress, 1208. O. Fr. *aparailler*, to dress—*a-*, to, and *pareiller*, to put like things with like—Low L. *pariculus*, similar, formed from L. *par*, equal.

Arace, *v.* to tear away, 1103. O. Fr. *aracer* (Fr. *arracher*)—L. *eradicare*, to tear up from the root—*radic-*, stem of *radix*, a root.

Archewyues, *n. pl.* archwives, ruling wives, 1195. *Arch-* is a Gr. prefix, though it comes to us through A.S. *arce-*, which we find in very early use in *arce-bisceop*. This form was borrowed from L. *archi-*, Gr. *archi-*, from Gr. *archein*, to be first.

Arn, *v. pr. pl.* are, 342. This is the old Northumbrian *aron*, *aren*, a form of Scand. origin corresponding to the A.S. (Wessex) form *sindon*. *Aren* is put for all persons in the plural. Cf. Icel. *er-u*, they are. Both forms are due to the same ultimate root, *ar-on* = *as-on* and *s-ind-on* = *as-in-d-on* being alike from the primitive Aryan root *as-anti*, they are, from which also come Sanscrit *s-anti*, Gr. *eis-in*, L. *sunt*, Ger. *s-ind*, Icel. *er-u* (for *es-u*).

Array, *n.* order, arrangement, 262, 670.

O. Fr. *arrai, arroi*, of Scand. origin; cf. Danish *rede*, Icel. *reidha, reidhi*, implements.

Arwes, *n. pl.* arrows, 1203. A.S. *arewe, earh;* cog. with Icel. *ör*, an arrow.

As, *conj.* like, as, 2, 7, etc.; **As now**, at this time, 23. A contraction of *also*.

Assay, *n.* trial, 621, 1138; *pl.* **assayes**, 697, 1166. O. Fr. *essai*—L. *exagium*, a trial of weight—Gr. *exagion*, a weighing.

Assayed, *pp.* tried, 1054.

Assenten, *v. pr.* 3 *pl.* agree, 176. O. Fr. *assentir*—L. *assentire*, to approve.

Astoned, *pp.* astonished, 337.

Astonied, *v. pt. s.* astonished, 316. A.S. *ástunian*, to stun completely, from which comes *astony*, afterwards lengthened to *astonish*, also *astound*, by addition of excrescent *d* after *n*, as in *sound*, from Fr. *son*.

Asure, *n.* azure, blue, 254. O. Fr. *azur* for *lazur*, mistaken for *l'azur*—Low L. *lazur*—Arabic *lâjward*, a blue colour.

Aswowne, *adv.* in a swoon, 1079. M. E. *a* for A.S. *on*, in, and M.E. *swowmen, swoghenen*, formed from M. E. *swowen, swoghen*, which is a weak verb, closely allied to A.S. *swógan*, to sough, sigh as the wind, a strong verb, of which the pp. *geswógen* occurs with the actual sense of 'in a swoon.'

Asyde, *adv.* aside, 303. For *on side*. A.S. *side*, side, allied to *sîd*, wide.

At, *prep.* at, 27, 57, etc.; from, 653. A.S. *æt;* cog. with Icel. *at*, Gothic *at*, L. *ad*.

Atones, *adv.* at once, 1178. A.S. *æt*, at, and *ánes*, gen. of *án*, one.

Atoon, *adv.* at one, 437. A.S. *æt*, at, and *án*, one.

Atte, for *at the;* **atte laste**, at the last, 547, 1027; **atte leste**, at the least, 130; **atte fulle**, fully, 749.

Atteyne, *v.* to attain, 447. O. Fr. *ateindre*—L. *attingere*, from *at-* (for *ad-*) and *tangere*, to touch.

Atwo, in two, 1169. For *on two*.

Auaille, *v.* to avail, 1194. O. Fr. *a-* (L. *ad-*) and *valoir, valer*—L. *valere*, to be strong.

Auctour, *n.* author, 1141. L. *auctor*, from *augere* (*auctus*), to increase.

Audience, *n.* hearing, 329, 637, 1179. Through Fr. from L. *audientia*, a hearing, *audire*, to hear.

Auentaille, *n.* aventail, 1204. See note to line 1204. O. Fr. *ventaille*, breathing piece of a helmet—L. *ventus*, wind.

Auenture, *n.* chance, 812; *pl.* **auentures**, adventures, 15. Through Fr. from L. *adventura*, feminine of *adventurus*, about to happen—*ad* and *venire*, to come.

Auyse, *v.* to deliberate, 238, 350, 797. Through Fr. from L. *visum* from *videri*, to seem.

Axen, *v.* to ask, 696; **axe**, 326; 1 *p. s. pr.* **axe**, 348; *pr. s.* **axeth**, 25; *imp. pl.* **axeth**, 653. A.S. *ácsian;* cf. Dut. *eischen*, Ger. *heischen*.

Ayeins, *prep.* against, 320. See **Agayns**, 911.

B

Bachelerye, *n.* the company of young men, 270. O. Fr. *bacheler*—Low L. *baccalarius*, a boy attending a baccalaria or cow-farm, according to Brachet from Low L. *bacca*—L. *vacca*, a cow.

Bad, *v. pt. s.* bade, 373. A.S. *beódan*, to command.

Badde, *adj. pl.* 522. A Celtic word; cf. Cornish and Breton *bad*, Gaelic *baodh*.

Bar, *v. pt. s.* bore, 85, 612; 2 *p. s. pt.* **bare**, barest, 1068. See **Bere**.

Bareyne, *adj.* barren, 448. O. Fr. *baraigne* (*brehaigne*), of doubtful origin. According to Diez from a Low L. *barus*.

Barm, *n. dat.* 551; usually in this case **barme**. A.S. *bearm—beran*, to bear.

Bathe, Bath, 1170.

Beautee, *n.* beauty, 211. O. Fr. *beltet, belteit*—Low L. acc. *bellitat-em*—L. *bellus*, fine.

Bede, *v.* 2 *p. pl. pr.* offer, 360. A.S. *beódan*, to bid.

Ben, *v.* to be, 937; *pr. s. subj.* **be**, 17; *imp. pl.* **beth**, 7. A.S. *beón*, to be, from the same ultimate root as L. *fui*, I was.

Benignely, *adv.* benignly, 21. O. Fr. *benigne* (Fr. *bénin*)—L. *benignus*, kind.

Bere, *v.* to bear; *pr. s.* **berth**, 625. A.S. *beran*; cf. L. *ferre*.

Bestes, *n. pl.* beasts, 201, 572, 683. O. Fr. *beste* (Fr. *bête*)—L. *bestia*.

Bete, *pp.* beaten, 1158. A.S. *beátan*, to beat.

Beth, see **Ben**.

Bidaffed, *pp.* befooled, 1191. Intensive prefix *be-*, *bi-* (A.S. *be-* *bi-*), and *daffe*, a foolish person, connected with *deaf*. A.S. *dedf*.

Bifalleth, *v. pr. s.* happens, 449; *pt. s. subj.* **bifelle**, were to befall, 136. A.S. *befeallan*, from *be-*, prefix, and *feallan*, to fall.

Bigyle, *v.* to beguile, 252. M. E. prefix *be-*, *bi-* (A.S. *be-*, *bi-*) and *gylen*, *gilen*, to deceive—O. Fr. *guile*, deceit, from an old Teutonic root, represented by A.S. *wíl*, Icel. *vel*, *væl*, a trick.

Birthe, *n.* birth (*dat.*), 402. A.S. *beorth*, from *beran*, to bear.

Biseke, *v.* to beseech; 1 *p. s. pr.* **biseke**, I beseech, 1037; *pr. part.* **biseking**e, beseeching, 178, 592. Prefix *be-* and *seken*—A.S. *sécan*, to seek.

Biseye, *pp.* displayed; **yuel biseye**, ill looking, 965; **richely biseye**, splendid looking, 984. A.S. *besegen*, pp. of *beséon*, from *seón*, to see.

Bisinesse, *n.* diligence, 1008. A.S. *bysig*, active.

Bisyde, *prep.* beside, 777, 1105. A.S. *be sídan*, by the side of, the first word being the prep., the latter the dat. case of *síd*, a side.

Bitake, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I commit, 161, 559. M. E. *betaken* is formed from M. E. *taken*, to take, to deliver, with prefix *be-* (= A.S. *be-*, *bi-*). M. E. *taken* is Scand., as in Icel. *taka*, Swedish *taga*, Danish *tage*.

Bitwixen, *prep.* between, 815. A.S. *betweox*, from *twá*, two.

Bityde, *v.* to befall, 79; *pr. s. subj.* **bityde**, may betide, 306. A.S. *tídan*, to happen, from *tíd*, time.

Biwailled, *pp.* bewailed, 530. Prefix *be-*, *bi-* (A.S. *bi-*) and *wailen*, a Scand. word, seen in Icel. *væla*, to wail, cry woe.

Blame, to, *gerund*, to blame, 76. O. Fr. *blasmer*—L. *blasphemare*—Gr. *blasphêmein*, to speak ill.

Blesse, blisse, *v.* to bless, 553, 679. A.S. *bletsian*, *bledsian* — *blód*, blood, therefore originally 'to consecrate by blood' either by sacrifice or by sprinkling.

Blisful, *adj.* happy, 844, 1121.

Blisse, *v.* to bliss, 553. See **Blesse**.

Blood, *n.* offspring, 632. A.S. *blód*, from *blówan*, to bloom, as *blood* is the symbol of 'blooming' or 'flourishing' life.

Body, *n.* the chief subject, the substance, 42. A.S. *bodig*, a bondage, the body, considered as *confining* the soul.

Boistously, *adv.* loudly, 791. A Celtic word, seen in Welsh *bwystus*, ferocious, from *bwyst*, ferocity.

Bologne, Bologna, 686, 763, 939.

Bord, *s.* board, table, 3. A.S. *bord*, the side of a ship; cog. with Icel. Dut. and Ger. *bord*.

Bore, *pp.* born, 401; **born**, borne, 444. A.S. *beran*, to bear, pp. *boren*.

Boughte, *v. pt. s.* redeemed, 1153. A.S. *bóhte*, I bought, *pt.* of *bycgan*, to buy.

Bounden, *pp.* bound, 704. A.S. *bunden*, pp. of *bindan*, to bind.

Bountee, *n.* bounty, 157, 415. O. Fr. *bonteit*—L. *bonitat-*, stem of *bonitas*, goodness, from *bonus*, good.

Boweth, *v. imp. pl.* bow, 113. A.S. *búgan*, to bend.

Brest, *n.* breast, 617. A.S. *bréost*; cog. with Ger. *brust*, Dut. *borst*.

Breste, *v.* to burst, 1169. A.S. *berstan*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *bersten*.

Briddes, *n. pl.* birds, 572. A.S. *bridd*, a bird, especially the young of birds.

Brooches, *n. pl.* brooches, 255. Named from the pin that fastens a brooch,

M. E. *broche*, a pin—Fr. *broche*—Low L. *brocca*—L. *broccus*, a point.

Brygbte, *adv.* brightly, 1117. A.S. *beorhte*, bright; cog. with Icel. *bjartr*.

Bulles, *n. pl.* bulls (papal), 739, 744. So called from the *bulla*, the leaden ball or seal affixed to an edict.

Buriedh, *v. imp. pl.* bury, 571. A.S. *byrigan*, *byrgan*, formed by the change of *o* to *y* from *borg-en*, pp. of *beorgan*, to hide, protect.

But, *conj.* unless, 174, 938. A.S. *bútan*, *conj.* except; *prep.* besides; originally an adv. meaning 'outside;' contracted from *be-útan*, which is compounded of *be*, by, and *útan*, *adv.* without.

Buxomly, *adv.* obediently, 186. M. E. *boxom*, *buksum*—A.S. *búg-an*, to bend, obey, and *-sum*, suffix, as in 'win-*some*.'

Bynde, *v.* 2 *p. s. pr. subj.* bind, 1205. A.S. *bindan*, to bind.

C

Camaille, *n.* a camel, 1196. O. Fr. *camel*—L. *camelus*—Gr. *kamēlos*—Hebrew *gâmâl*. Cf. Arabic *jamal*.

Can, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I am able, 304. A.S. *cunnan*, to know, pr. *ic can*, pt. *ic cúdhe*.

Care, *v.* to feel anxiety for, 1212. A.S. *caru*, *cearu*, anxiety; cog. with Gothic *kara*, sorrow, Icel. *kæri*, complaint.

Carie, *v.* to carry, 585. O. Fr. *carier*, to carry, *car* (Fr. *char*), a car—L. *carrus*, a word of Celtic origin, perhaps derived from Gaul as it occurs first in Cæsar; cf. Breton *karr*, a chariot, Welsh *car*, Irish *carr*.

Cas, *n.* case, occasion, 430, 561; chance, 316. Through Fr. from L. *cas-*, stem of *casus*, from *cadere*, to fall.

Caughte, *v. pt. s.* took, 619; *pp.* caught, 1110. *Catch* is from O. Fr. *cachier*, *chacier*, through a Low L. form from L. *captare*, to catch, from *capere*, to take.

Certayn, *adv.* certainly, 694. O. Fr. *certein*—L. *cert-us*, sure.

Certes, *adv.* certainly, 106, 659. Through Fr. from L. *certe*, surely.

Cesse, *v.* to cease, 154. Through Fr. from L. *cessare*, frequentative of *cedere*, to yield, go.

Chace, *v.* to pursue, 393. See **Caughte**.

Chambres, *n. pl.* sleeping-rooms, 263. O. Fr. *cambre*—L. *camera*, *camara*, a vault.

Charge, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I charge, 164. Through Fr. from Low L. *carricare*, to load a car—L. *carrus*. See **Carie**.

Charge, *n.* responsibility, 163, 193. See above.

Charitee, *n.* love, 221. O. Fr. *charitet*—L. *caritat-*, stem of *caritas*, from *carus*, dear.

Chaunged, *pp.* changed, 601. O. Fr. *changier* (Fr. *changer*)—Low L. *cambiare*—L. *cambire*, to exchange.

Chere, *n.* demeanour, 238, 241, 535, 782; show, 678; kindly expression, 1112. O. Fr. *chere* (Fr. *chère*)—Low L. *cara*, the face.

Chese, *v.* to choose, 130, 153. A.S. *ceósan*, pt. *cés*; cog. with Ger. *kiesen* and Gothic *kiusan*.

Chesing, *n.* a choice, 162.

Cheste, *n.* a chest, coffin, 29. A.S. *cyste*—L. *cista*—Gr. *kistē*, a chest.

Chichenesche, *n.* 'the lean cow,' 1188. From Fr. *chiche*, lean—L. *ciccus*, a trifle, and *vache*—L. *vacca*, a cow. See note to line 1188.

Choys, *n.* choice, 154, 170. O. Fr. *chois* (Fr. *choix*), *choisir*, to choose, of Teutonic origin; cf. Gothic *kiusan*, to choose.

Clad, *pp.* clothed, 378. M. E. *clothen*, *clathen*, pt. *clothede*, *cladde*, pp. *clothed*, *clad*. Formed from A.S. *clâdh*, cog. with Dut. *kleeden* from *kleed*, Scotch *kleid*, Ger. *kleiden*.

Clappeth, *v. imp. pl.* keep up a constant clatter, 1200. From a supposed but unverified A.S. form, *clappan*, to clap; cog. with Icel. *klappa*, Dut. *klappen*.

Clapping, *n.* foolish talk, 999.

Clepen, *v.* to call; **men clepeth**, people call, 115. A.S. *cleopian*, *clypian*, to call.

Clare, *adj. pl.* clear, 779. O. Fr. *cler, clair*—L. *clarus.*

Clerk, *n.* a clerk, student, 1; *pl.* **clerkes**, writers, 933. A.S. and O. Fr. *clerc*, —L. *clericus*—Gr. *klērikos*, one of the clergy—*klēros*, a lot.

Cofre, *n.* a coffer, box, 585. O. Fr. *cofre*, also *cofin*—L. *cophinus*—Gr. *kophinos*, a basket.

Collacion, *n.* a conversation, 325. O. Fr. *collation*—L. *collation-*, stem of *collatio*, a bringing together, *collatum*, supine of *conferre.*

Colours, *n. pl.* ornaments of style, 16. O. Fr. *colour* (Fr. *couleur*)—L. *color.*

Comandement, *n.* a commandment, 649. O. Fr. *commander*—L. *commendare.*

Commune, *adj.* common, 431; *pl.* the common people, 70. O. Fr. *commun*—L. *communis.*

Comparisoun, *n.* comparison, 666, 817. Through Fr. from L. *comparatio*—*comparare*, to adjust.

Comunly, *adv.* commonly, 726.

Conningly, *adv.* skilfully, 1017. *Cunning* was originally pr. part. of M. E. *cunnen*, to know—A.S. *cunnan*, to know. See **Can.**

Constance, *n.* constancy, 668, 1000, 1008. Through Fr. from L. *constantia*, from *constare*, to stand together.

Constreyneth, *v. pr. s.* constrains, 800. O. Fr. *constraindre*—L. *constringere*, to bind together.

Contenance, *n.* demeanour, 924, 1110. O. Fr. *contenance*—L. *continentia*, which in later L. meant 'gesture,' from *continere*, to hold together.

Contree, *n.* country, 436. O. Fr. *contree*—Low L. *contrada*, a region, literally 'what lies opposite,' from L. *contra*, opposite.

Conveyen, *v.* to convey, 55; *pt. pl.* **conveyed**, went as convoy, 391. O. Fr. *conveier*—Low L. *conviare*—L. *con-* (*cum*), with, and *via*, a way.

Corage, *n.* courage, mind, 511, 950; disposition, 220, 692, 787; will, 907. O. Fr. *corage*—L. *cor*, the heart.

Corone, *n.* a crown, garland, 381; **coroune**, 1118. O. Fr. *corone* (Fr. *couronne*)—L. *corona.*

Costage, *n.* cost, 1126. O. Fr. *coster* (Fr. *coûter*)—L. *constare.*

Cote, *n.* a cot, 398. A.S. *cote*, cog. with Dut. *kot.*

Cote, *n.* a coat, a woman's outer garment, 913. O. Fr. *cote* (Fr. *cotte*)—Low L. *cota*, of Teutonic origin. Ultimately cog. with the foregoing word, which originally meant a 'covering.'

Couche, *v.* to cower down, 1206. O. Fr. *coucher*—L. *collocare*, to put together.

Couds, *v. pt. s.* knew, 1021. See **Can.**

Covered, *v. pt. s.* covered, 914. O. Fr. *covrir* (Fr. *couvrir*)—L. *co-operire.*

Countesse, *n.* a countess, 590. From O. Fr. *conte, comte*, a count—L. *comit-*, stem of *comes*, a companion.

Countretaille, *n.* correspondence; **at the countretaille**, correspondingly, in return, 1190. Fr. *contre*, against, and *taille*, a notch, a tally or score kept on a piece of stick by *notches*—L. *talea*, a slip of wood.

Couth, *pp.* known, 942. A.S. *cūdh*, known, *pp.* of *cunnan.* See **Can.**

Coy, *adj.* still, 2. O. Fr. *coi, coit*—L. *quietus.*

Coyn, *n.* coin, 1168. O. Fr. *coin*—L. *cuneus*, a wedge.

Crabbed, *adj.* cross, 1203. Literally 'crab-like,' from the noun *crab*, A.S. *crabba*; cog. with Danish and Ger. *krabbe.*

Crepeth, *v.* 3 *p. s. pr.* creeps, 1134. A.S. *crēpan*, cog. with Dut. *kruipen.*

Croys, *n.* cross, 556. O. Fr. *crois* (Fr. *croix*)—L. *cruc-*, stem of *crux.*

Cures, *n. pl.* cares, 82. Through Fr. from L. *cura.*

Curteisye, *n.* courtesy, 74. O. Fr. *corteisie, corteis*, courteous, *cort*, a court—Low L. *cortis*, a court-yard —L. *cors, cohors*, an inclosure.

D

Dar, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I dare, 803. A.S. *ic dear*, pt. *ic dorste.*

Day, *n.* day, 152, 183, 391, etc.; *pl.* **dayes, now a dayes**, now-a-days, 1164. A.S. *dæg*, pl. *dagas;* cf. Dut., Danish, and Swedish *dag*, Ger. *tag*.

Dede, *n.* a deed (*dat.*) 241. A.S. *dæd*.

Deeth, *n.* death, 36, 510. A.S. *déaðh;* cog. with Ger. *tod*.

Deface, *v.* to obliterate, 510. O. Fr. *desfacer*—O. Fr. *des-* (= L. *dis*), apart, and *face*—L. *facies*.

Defaute, *n.* defect, 1018. O. Fr. *deffaute, defaut, default*—O. Fr. *def-* (= L. *dif-* for *dis-*), apart, and *falte, faute*, a fault—Low L. *fallita*, a deficiency, pp. of Low L. *fallire*, to fail—L. *fallere*, to fail.

Delyt, *n.* delight, 68. O. Fr. *deliter*—L. *delectare*, to delight.

Delytable, *adj.* delightful, 62, 199.

Delyting, *pr. part.* delighting, 997.

Demandes, *n. pl.* questions, 348. Through Fr. from L. *de-mandare*, to intrust.

Deme, *v.* to judge, 133; 1 *p. s. pr.* **deme**, 753; *pr. pl.* **demen**, 988. A.S. *déman*, to judge, from *dóm*, doom.

Dere, *adj.* (*voc.*) 101, 1056; *pl.* 999, 1089, 1093. A.S. *debre, dýre;* cog. with Ger. *theuer*.

Despitously, *adv.* despitefully, cruelly, 535. O. Fr. *despit*—L. *despectus*, contempt.

Deuoir, *n.* duty, 966. O. Fr. *devoir, dever*, to owe—L. *debere*.

Deuyse, *v.* to narrate, 52; to contrive, 698, 739; **deuysen**, to imagine, 108. O. Fr. *deviser, devise*, a plan, through Low L. forms from L. *dividere*, to divide.

Deyen, *v.* to die, 665, 859; **deye**, 364; *pt. s.* **deyde**, 550, 1062. A Scand. word; cf. Icel. *deyja*.

Deyntee, *adj.* dainty, 1112. O. Fr. *daintie*—L. *dignitat-*, stem of *dignitas*, worthiness, *dignus*, worthy.

Deynteuous, *adj.* dainty, 265.

Dide, *v. pt. s.* did, 185. A.S. *dón*, pt. *dyde*, pp. *gedón*. The *pt. t.* is formed by reduplication.

Diffame, *n.* a bad report, 540, 730. O. Fr. *defamer*—L. *diffamare*, to spread a bad report, from *dif-* (for *dis-*), apart, and *fama*, a report.

Digne, *adj.* worthy, 818. Through Fr. from L. *dignus*.

Dignitee, *n.* dignity, 470.

Discryue, *v.* to describe; *pr. s.* **discryueth**, 43. O. Fr. *descrire*, short form of *descrivre*—L. *describere*.

Disdeyne, *v.* to disdain, 98. O. Fr. *desdein, desdegner*, from O. Fr. *des-* (L. *dis-*), apart, and *degner* (L. *dignari*), to think worthy, from L. *dignus*, worthy.

Disparage, *n.* disgrace, 908. O. Fr. *desparager*, through a Low L. *paraticum* from L. *par*, equal.

Dispence, *n.* expense, 1209. O. Fr. *despense* (Fr. *dépense*)—L. *dispensare*, to weigh out.

Dispensacion, *n.* a dispensation, 746.

Displese, *v.* to displease, 506. Through Fr. from L. *dis*, and *placere*, to please.

Dispoilen, *v.* to despoil, 374. O. Fr. *despoiller* (Fr. *dépouiller*)—L. *despoliare*, to plunder.

Do, **don**, *v.* to do, to cause, 353; *pr. s.* **doth forth** = continues, 1015; *gerund*, **to doone**, 99; *imp. pl.* **doth**, 568, 652; *pp.* **doon**, 253, 1098. A.S. *dón*, pt. *dyde*, pp. *gedón;* cog. with Dut. *doen*, Ger. *thun*, Gr. *ti-thē-mi*.

Doom, *n.* judgment, opinion, 1000.

Dore, *n.* a door, 282. A.S. *duru;* cog. with Dut. *deur*, Ger. *thür, thor*.

Dorste, *v. pt. s.* durst, 403. See **Dar**.

Doughter, *n.* a daughter; *gen.* **doughter**, daughter's, 608.

Douteles, *adv.* without doubt, 485. O. Fr. *douter*, later *doubter*—L. *dubitare*, to doubt.

Dowaire, Dower, *n.* dower, 807, 848. O. Fr. *doaire*—Low L. *dotarium*—L. *dotare*, to endow.

Dradde, *v. pt. s.* dreaded, 523; *pp.* **drad**, dreaded, 69. See **Drede**.

Drank, *v. pt. s.* drank, 216. A.S. *drincan*, pt. t. *dranc*, pp. *druncen*. Cf. Ger. *trinken*, Dut. *drinken*.

Drawe, *v.* to draw, 314. A.S. *dragan* (by change of *g* to *w*). Cf. Dut. *dragen*, Ger. *tragen*.

Drede, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I fear, 636; *imp. s.* **dred**, fear, 1201; *pt. s.* **dredde**, feared, 181. A.S. *drædan*, found only in compounds, as *ondrædan*, to dread.

Drede, *n.* dread, fear, 358, 462, 634, 1155.

Drery, *adj.* sad, 514. A.S. *dreórig*, sad, originally 'gory,' and formed with suffix *-ig* from A.S. *dreór*, gore —*dreósan*, to drip.

Dresse, *v.* to address one's self, 1007, 1049. O. Fr. *dresser*, through Low L. forms from L. *directus*, pp. of *dirigere*, to direct.

Dreye, *adj. pl.* dry, 899. A.S. *dryge*; cog. with Dut. *droog*, dry, Ger. *trocken*, dry.

Dure, *v.* to endure, 166, 825. L. *durare—durus*, hard.

Dye, *v.* to die, 38. See **Deyen**.

Dyghte, *v.* to prepare, 974. A.S. *dihtan*, to arrange—L. *dictare*, to dictate.

E

Echoon, *adj.* each one, 124.

Eek, *conj.* also, 521. A.S. *eác*; cog. with Dut. *ook*, Ger. *auch*.

Effect, *n.* effect, 721. Through Fr. from L. *effectum*, acc. of *effectus*, pp. of *efficere*, to work out.

Egre, *adj.* eager, 1199. O. Fr. *egre* (Fr. *aigre*)—L. *acrem*, acc. of *acer*, sharp.

Ekko, *n.* echo, 1189. L. *echo*—Gr. *ἠχώ*.

Eldres, *n. pl.* elders, forefathers, 65, 156. A.S. *yldra*, comparative of *eald*, old.

Emelward, towards the Æmilian Way, 51.

Emprinteth, *imp. pl.* imprint, 1193. O. Fr. *empreinte*—L. *imprimere*, to press upon.

Encresen, *v.* to increase; *pr. s.* **encreseth**, 50; *pp.* **encreased**, 408. Fr. *en* (L. *in*), and O. Fr. *creisser*—L. *crescere*, to increase.

Endite, *v.* to write; *pr. pl.* 2 *p.* **endite**, 17; *pr. s.* **enditeth**, 41, 1148. O. Fr. *indicter*, *inditer*—Low L. *indictare*, a frequentative, from L. *indicare*, to point out.

Endure, *v.* to take upon, 163. Fr. from *en* (L. *in*), and *durer*—L. *durare*, to last.

Enformed, *pp.* informed, 738. Through Fr. from L. *informare*, to put into form.

Engendred, *pp.* begotten, 158. O. Fr. *engendrer*—L. *ingenerare*.

Enlumined, *v. pt. s.* illumined, 33. Through Fr. from L. *illuminare*.

Enquere, *v.* to ask, 769. O. Fr. *enquerre*, *enquerir*—L. *inquirere*, to search into.

Entencion, *n.* intention, 703. Through Fr. from L. *intentionem*, acc. of *intentio*.

Entente, *n.* intention, 189, 735, 874.

Entrailles, *n.* entrails, 1188. O. Fr. *entrailles*—Low L. *intralia*, *intranea* — L. *interanea*, inward things, from *inter*, within.

Equitee, *n.* equity, justice, 439. O. Fr. *equite* — L. *æquitatem*, acc. of *æquitas—æquus*, just.

Er, *conj.* before, 178. A.S. *ær*; cog. with Gothic *air*, Dut. *eer*, Icel. *ár*.

Ere, the ear; *pl.* **eres**, 629. A.S. *eáre*; cog. with Dut. *oor*, Ger. *ohr*.

Ernest, *n.* earnest, seriousness, 733. A.S. *eornest* (*n.*); cog. with Dut. and Ger. *ernst*.

Ernestful, *adj.* full of earnestness, serious, 1175.

Erst, *adv.* before, 336; **at erst** = at first, 985. A.S. *ærest*, superl. of *ær*, soon.

Erthe, *n.* the earth, 203. A.S. *eordhe*; cog. with Icel. *jördh*, Gothic *airtha*, Ger. *erde*.

Ese, *n.* ease, 217, 434. O. Fr. *aise*, the same word as Italian *agio*. Perhaps Celtic, as in Gaelic *adhais*, ease.

Estaat, state, 160, 767; way, 610. O. Fr. *estat*—L. *statum*, acc. of *status*, pp. of *stare*, to stand.

Estward, *adv.* eastwards, 50. A.S. *éast* (adv.) in the east, and adv. suffix signifying direction, *-weard*, gen. *-weardes*.

Ete, *v.* to eat; *pp.* **eten**, 1096. A.S. *etan;* cog. with Icel. *eta*, Ger. *essen*, L. *edere.*

Euel, *adv.* ill, 1052. A.S. *yfel* (adj. and n.); cog. with Dut. *euvel*, Ger. *übel*, &c.

Euer, *adv.* ever, 107, &c. A.S. *æfre*, ever.

Euene, *adj.* even, 811. A.S. *efen, efn;* cog. with Dut. *even*, Gothic *ibns*, Ger. *eben.*

Euerich, *adj.* every one, 1017. A.S. *æfre*, ever, and *ælc*, each (Scotch *ilk*).

Euermo, *adv.* continually, 754. A.S. *æfre*, ever.

F

Fader, *n.* father; *gen. s.* **fader**, 1136, **fadres**, 809; *pl.* **fadres**, fathers, ancestors, 61. A.S. *fæder*, cog. with L. *pater*, Gr. *patêr*, Gothic *fadar*, Icel. *fadhir*, Ger. *vater.*

Fairnesse, *n.* fairness, beauty, 384. A.S. *fæger*, cog. with Gothic *fagrs.*

Falle, *v.* to fall, happen, 126; belong, suit, 259. A.S. *feallan;* cf. Ger. *fallen.*

Fame, *n.* good report, 418. Through Fr. from L. *fama.*

Fare, *v.* to fare, get on; *pp.* **fare**, fared, gone, 896; *imp. s.* **far**, 555. A.S. *faran*, cog. with Icel. *fara*, Ger. *fahren.*

Faste, *adv.* fast, 598. A.S. *fæst*, fast, firm.

Fayn, *adv.* gladly; **wolde fayn** = would fain, would be glad to, 696. A.S. *fægen*, fain, glad.

Fecchen, *v.* to fetch, 276. See **Fette.**

Feet, *n.* a performance, 429. O. Fr. *fait*—L. *factum.*

Felaw, *n.* a fellow; *pl.* **felawes**, companions, 282. A Scand. word; Icel. *félagi, félag*, companionship—*fé*, property, and *lag*, a laying together, a law.

Fele, *adj. pl.* many, 917. A.S. *féla;* cog. with Ger. *viel*, &c.

Ferde, *v. pt. s.* fared, behaved, 1060. See **Fare.**

Ferme, *adj.* firm, 663. Through Fr. from L. *firmus.*

Ferrare, Ferrara, 51.

Ferther, *adv.* further, 712.

Feste, *n.* a feast, 191. O. Fr. *feste* (Fr. *fête*)—L. *festa*, pl. of *festum.*

Fette, *v. pt. s.* fetched, 301. A.S. *feccan*, pt. *feahte*, pp. *gefetod.*

Fey, *n.* faith, 9, 1032. O. Fr. *feid, fei*—L. *fidem*, acc. of *fides*, faith.

Feynting, *n.* fainting, 970. O. Fr. *feint*, weak, pretended, pp. of *feindre*, to feign—L. *fingere.*

Feble, *adj.* feeble, 1198. O. Fr. *foible* for a supposed form *floible*—L. *flebilis*, doleful, hence 'weak'—*flere*, to weep.

Figures, *n. pl.* figures of speech, 16. Through Fr. from L. *figura.*

Fil, *pt. s.* occurred, 449, 718. A.S. *feallan*, to fall; cog. with Icel. *falla*, Ger. *fallen*, etc.

Fingres, *n. pl.* fingers, 380. A.S. *finger;* cog. with Dut. *vinger*, Icel. *fingr.*

Fleeth, *v. pr. s.* flies, 119. Scand.; cf. Icel. *flýja, flæja*, to flee.

Flokmele, *adv.* in a great number, 86. A.S. *flocc*, a flock (perhaps a variant of *folk*), and *mæl*, a time, portion of time, hence 'portion of food eaten at stated times.' The dat. pl. *mælum*, in parts, is thus used adverbially.

Flour, *n.* flower, choice, 919. Fr.—L. *flor-em*, acc. of *flos.*

Folwen, *v.* to follow, 1143; *imp. pl.* **folweth**, 1189. A.S. *fylgan, fyligan*, to follow. Cog. with Ger. *folgen.*

Folye, *n.* folly, 236. O. Fr. *folie*—*fol*, a fool—L. *follis*, a wind-bag, pl. *folles*, puffed cheeks, as of the jester.

Fond, *v. pt. s.* found, 457. A.S. *findan*, cog. with Ger. *finden.*

Fonde, *v.* to try, 283. A.S. *fandian*, to try, connected with *findan*, to find.

Forbede, *v.* 3 *p. s. imp.* may be forbid; **God forbede** = God forbid, 136, 1076; *pt. s.* **forbad**, forbade, 570. A.S. *forbéodan;* cf. Ger. *verbieten.*

Forgeten, *pp.* forgotten, 469. A.S. *forgitan*; cf. Ger. *vergessen*, Dut. *vergeten*.

Forgoon, *v.* to forego, 171. A.S. *forgán*, to pass over.

Fors, *n.* force, importance; **no fors** = no matter, 1092. O. Fr. *force*—Low L. *fortia*, strength—L. *forti-*, stem of *fortis*, strong.

Forthermore, *adv.* furthermore, 169. *Further* is the comp. of *fore*, not of *forth*. A.S. *furthur*, from *for-e* (adv.), before, with comp. suffix. Cf. Dut. *vorders*, comp. of *vor*, before, with comp. suffix *-der-s*, and Gr. *proteros*, comp. of *pro*, before.

Foryelde, *v.* to yield in return for, 831. A.S. *forgyldan*, to recompense, *gyldan*, to pay, yield.

Foryetful, *adj.* forgetful, 472. A.S. *forgitol*. See **Forgeten**.

Foryive, *v.* to forgive, 526. A.S. *forgifan*; cf. Ger. *vergeben*, Dut. *vergeven*.

Fostred, *pp.* nurtured, 1043. A.S. *fóstrian—fóstor*, nourishment, allied to *fóda*, food.

Foul, *adj.* foul, ugly, 1209. A.S. *fúl*; cf. Ger. *faul*, Dut. *vuil*.

Founde, *pp.* found, 146; **founden**, 520. See **Fond**.

Fraunceys, Francis, 31.

Fre, *adj.* free, bounteous, 1209. A.S. *frée*; cog. with Icel. *frír*, Ger. *frei*.

Frely, *adv.* freely, 352.

Frelatee, *n.* frailty, 1160. O. Fr. *fraile*—L. *fragilis*, easily broken.

Freres, *n. pl.* friars, 12. O. Fr. *frere, freirs*—L. *fratrem*, acc. of *frater*, a brother.

Fulfild, *pp.* fulfilled, 596. A.S. *fulfyllan—ful*, full, and *fyllan*, to fill.

Fulliche, *adv.* fully, 706.

Furlong, *n.* a furlong; **furlong wey** = a distance of a furlong, a short time, originally 'a furrow-long,' 516. A.S. *furh*, a furrow, and *lang*, long.

G

Game, *n.* sport, 609, 733. A.S. *gamen*, sport; cog. with Icel. *gaman*.

Gan, *v. pt. s.* began. Used as an auxiliary = did, 392, 679; in *pl.* **gonne** = did, 1103. A.S. *ginnan*, to begin, commonly *on-ginnan*, pt. *ongann*, pp. *ongunnen*.

Gazed, *v. pt. s.* gazed, 1003. A Scand. word; allied to *aghast*.

Gemmes, *n. pl.* gems, precious stones, 254, 779. Through Fr. from L. *gemma*, a bud, also a jewel.

Gentillesse, *n.* nobility, excellence, 96; delicate nurture, 593.

Gentilleste, *adv.* noblest, 72.

Gentils, *n. pl.* gentry, people of rank, 480. O. Fr. *gentil*—L. *gentilis*, belonging to the same clan—*gens*, a clan.

Gere, *n.* gear, clothing, 372. A.S. *gearwe, fem. pl.* preparation, dresses—*gearo*, ready, whence also *yare*.

Geese, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I suppose, 469. Scand.; cf. Danish *gisse*, Swedish *gissa*, to guess.

Gest, *n.* a guest, 338; *pl.* **gestes**, 339. A.S. *gæst, gest, gast*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *gast*, L. *hostis*, &c.

Gete, *v.* to get (*gerund*), 1210. A.S. *gitan, gæt, giten*.

Glade, *v.* to make glad, 1174; *pr. s.* **gladeth**, cheers, 1107; *imp. s.* 3 *p.* **glade**, may he comfort, 822. Formed from A.S. *glæd*, shining, bright, glad; cog. with Dut. *glad*, smooth, bright, Ger. *glat*, smooth.

Gon, goon, *v.* to go, 288, 847; *pr. pl.* **goon**, 898; *pp.* **goon**, 774. A.S. *gán*, a contracted form of *gangan*, to go.

Gonne, *v. pt. pl.* did, 1103. See **Gan**.

Goode, *adj.* (*voc.*) good, 852. A.S. *gód*; cog. with Gothic *gods*, Ger. *gut*, &c.

Goost, *n.* a spirit, 926, 972. A.S. *gást*; cog. with Dut. *geest*, Ger. *geist*.

Goth, *v. imp. pl.* go, 568; 3 *p. s. pr.* **gooth**, 300. See **Gon**.

Gouernaille, *n.* management, 1192. Literally 'the steering of the helm.' Fr. *gouvernail*—L. *gubernaculum*, the helm of a ship.

Gouernance, *n.* control, arrangement, 23, 994, 1161.

Gouerneth, *v. imp. pl.* arrange, 322.

O. Fr. *governer*—L. *gubernare*—Gr. *kybernaein*, to steer.

Grace, *n.* favour, 424. O. Fr. *grace*—L. *gratia*.

Graue, *v.* to bury, 681. A.S. *grafan*, to dig; cog. with Ger. *graben*, &c.

Graunten, *v.* to grant, 179; *pt. s.* **graunted**, 183; *imp. s.* 3 *p.* **graunte** = may he grant, 842. O. Fr. *graanter*, a later spelling of *craanter*, to caution—Low L. *creantare*, put for *credentare*—L. *credent-credere*, to believe.

Graunt mercy for Fr. *grand merci*, many thanks, 1088.

Gree, *n.* gratitude, 1151. Through Fr. from L. *gratus*, pleasing.

Greene, *adj.* (*def.*) green, 120. A.S. *grêne;* cog. with Ger. *grün*, Dut. *groen*, etc.

Grete, *adj.* (*voc.*) great, 382. A.S. *greát;* cog. with Dut. *groot*, Ger. *gross*.

Grette, *v. pt. s.* greeted, 952. A.S. *grétan*, to visit; cog. with Dut. *groeten*, Ger. *grüssen*.

Gretter, *adj.* (comp.) greater, 1126.

Greueth, *v. pr. s.* (used impersonally) it vexes, 647. Through Fr. from L. *gravare*, to weigh down.

Grisildis, Griselda, 210; **Grisild**, 232; **Grisilde**, 365.

Grucche, *v.* to murmur at, 170, 354. O. Fr. *groucher*, *grocer*, to murmur; a Teutonic origin, but ultimately imitative.

Gyde, *v.* to guide, 776. O. Fr. *guider*, of Teutonic origin; from a source allied to Gothic *witan*, to watch, and A.S. *witan*, to know.

Gye, *v.* to guide, rule, 75.

H

Habundance, *n.* abundance, 203. Through O. Fr. *abondance*, from L. *abundantia*, *abundare*, to overflow.

Habundant, *adj.* abundant, 59.

Hadde, *v. pt. s.* had, took, 303, 438; *pt. pl.* **hadden**, 201.

Han, *v. pr. pl.* have, 107, 188, 381.

Handle, *v.* to handle, touch, 376. A.S. *handlian* formed from *hand*.

Hardily, *adv.* boldly, 25. O. Fr. *hardi*, brave, of Teutonic origin.

Hardinesse, *n.* boldness, 93.

Hastif, *adj.* hasty, 349. O. Fr. *hastif*—*haste* (Fr. *hâte*), haste, of Scand. origin.

Hastiliche, *adv.* quickly, 911.

Hatede, *v. pt. s.* hated, 731. A.S. *hatian*, to hate, *hete*, hatred; cog. with Dut. *haat*, Ger. *hass*.

Haue, *v.* to have, 242; *imp. s.* **haue**, take, 567. A.S. *habban*, pt. *hæfde*, pp. *gehæfd*.

Hauke, *v.* to hawk, 81. The M. E. forms of the noun are *hauk*, *hauek* (= *havek*)—A.S. *hafoc*, *heafoc*. Cf. Dut. *havic*, Ger. *habicht*.

Heeld, *v.* 1 *p. s. pt.* I held, considered, 818; *pt. pl.* **helde**, 426. A.S. *healdan*, pt. *héold;* cog. with Dut. *houden*, Ger. *halten*.

Heer, *adv.* here, 36. A.S. *hér*, adv.; from the base of *hé*, he.

Heer-vp-on, *adv.* hereupon, 190.

Hem, *pron. pl. acc.* them, 17, 38, etc., (*dat.*) 481, etc. A.S. *him*, dat. s. and pl. of *hé*.

Hente, *v. pt. s.* seized, 534; *pp.* **hent**, seized, 676. A.S. *hentan*, to seize.

Her, *pron.* (possessive) their, 185, 187, etc. A.S. *heora*, gen. pl. of *hé*.

Herbergage, *n.* harbourage, abode, 201. Of Scand. origin. Icel. *herbergi*, a harbour, literally 'army shelter,' from Icel. *herr*, an army, and *bærg*, pt. t. of *bjarga*, to shelter. Cf. the Old High Ger. *hereberga*, a camp, from Old High Ger. *heri* (Ger. *heer*), an army, and *bergan*, to shelter (whence Fr. *auberge*, and Italian *albergo*).

Herbes, *n. pl.* herbs, 226. Through Fr. from L. *herba*.

Here, *v.* to hear, 56. A.S. *hýran*, *héran*, pt. t. *hýrde*, pp. *gehýred;* cog. with Dut. *hooren*, Ger. *hören*.

Heres, *n. pl.* hair, 379, 1085. A.S. *hær;* cog. with Dut. *haar*.

Herie, *v. pr. pl.* praise, 616. A.S. *herian*, to praise, *here*, fame.

Herkneth, *v. imp. pl.* listen, 1141, 1163.

A.S. *hỳrcnian*, extended from *hỳran*, to hear.

Herte, *n.* heart, 412; *gen. s.* or *pl.* **hertes**, 112. A.S. *heorte*. Cf. Dut. *hart*, Ger. *herz*.

Hertly, *adj.* hearty, 176, 502.

Heste, *n.* command, 128, 568; *pl.* **hestes**, 529. The final *t* is excrescent, as in *whils-t*, *amongs-t*, &c. A.S. *hæs*, a command—*hâtan*, to command.

Heuinesse, *n.* heaviness, grief, 432, 678. M. E. *hevi* (= *hevi*)—A.S. *hefig*, heavy—A.S. *hef-*, stem formed from *hebban* (pt. t. *hôf*), to heave.

Hewe, *n.* hue, appearance, 377. A.S. *hîw*, colour.

Highte, *v. pt. s.* was called, was named, 32, 210. A.S. *hâtte*, I am called, I was called, *pt. t.* of A.S. *hâtan*, to call, to be called or named.

Him, *pron. dat. s.* and *pl.* to them, 65, 79, etc. A.S. *him*, dat. s. and pl. of *hê*, he.

His, *pron.* (possessive neut.) its, 263, etc. A.S. *his*, *gen. s.*, neuter of *hê*.

Holde, *v.* to hold; *pr. s. subj.* 287; *pp.* **holde**, 273, **holden**, 205, 828. A.S. *healdan*; cog. with Dut. *houden*, Ger. *halten*.

Homlinesse, *n.* homeliness, domestic duty, 429. The M. E. *hoom*, home, is from A.S. *hâm*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *heim*.

Honest, *adj.* honest, honourable, 333. O. Fr. *honeste* (Fr. *honnête*)—L. *honestus*, honourable.

Honestetee, *n.* honour, 422.

Honoureth, *v. imp. pl.* honour ye, 370. Through Fr. from L. *honorare*.

Honurable, *adj.* honourable, 767.

Hool, *adj.* whole, 861. A.S. *hâl*, whole; cog. with *hale*, M. E. *heil*, of Scand. origin.

Hors, *n.* a horse, 388. A.S. *hors* (neut.) *pl. hors*. Cf. Icel. *hross*, Ger. *ross*.

Hoste, *n.* host, 1. O. Fr. *host* (Fr. *hôte*)—L. *hostem*, acc. of *hostis*, an enemy, originally 'a stranger,' 'a guest.'

Houndes, *n. pl.* hounds, dogs, 1095. A.S. *hund*; cog. with Dut. *hond*, Ger. *hund*.

Housbond, *n.* a husband, 698. A.S. *husbonda*, of Scand. origin. Icel. *hûsbóndi*—Icel. *hûs*, a house, and *búandi*, dwelling in, pr. part. of *búa*, to dwell.

Humanitee, *n.* kindness, 92. L. *humanitas*—*humanus*—*homo*, a man.

Humilitee, *n.* humility, 1143. O. Fr. *humiliteit*—L. *humilitatem*, acc. of *humilitas*—*humilis*, low.

Hunte, *v.* to hunt, 81. A.S. *huntian*, to capture.

Hunting, *n.* hunting, **on hunting** = on hunting, 234.

Hy, *adj.* high, elevated, 18; (*dat.*) **hye**, 135; *pl.* **hye**, 45. A.S. *hêah*, *hêh*; cf. Dut. *hoog*, Ger. *hoch*.

Hyghte, *v. pt. pl.* 2 *p.* promised, 496. A.S. *hatan*, to promise, pt. t. *ic hêht*.

I

Ialousye, *n.* jealousy, 1205. O. Fr. *jalous* (Fr. *jaloux*), jealous—Low L. *zelosus*—L. *zelus*—Gr. *zêlos*, ardour.

Iame, James, 1154.

Iane, *n.* a small coin, properly of Genoa, 999. L. *Janua*, Genoa.

Ianicle, Janicola, 404, 632; **Ianicula**, 208, 304.

Impertinent, *adj.* not pertinent or relevant, 54. Fr. *im-* = L. *im-* (for *in-*), not, and L. *pertinent-*, stem of pr. part. of *pertinere*, to pertain to.

Importable, *adj.* not to be endured, 1144. L. *importabilis*—*in*, not, and *portare*, to carry.

Inwith, *prep.* within, 870.

Iob, Job, 932.

Itaille, Italy, 33, 266.

Iugement, *n.* judgment, opinion, 53; *pl.* **iugements**, 439. Fr. *juge*, a judge—L. *judicem*, acc. of *judex*—*jus*, law.

K

Kembd, *pp.* combed, 379. A.S. *cemban*, to comb, pt. *cembde*.

Kepe, *n.* heed, care, 1058. A.S. *cêpan*, to traffic, also to store up—*cêap*,

barter, price, from L. *caupo*, a huckster.

Kepeth, *v. pr. s.* keeps, 1133; *pt. s.* **kepte**, kept, 223; *pp.* **kept**, 1098.

Kesse, *v.* to kiss 1057; *pt. s.* **kiste**, 679. M. E. *coss*, a kiss (whence the verb *kissen*)—A.S. *coss*, whence *cyssan*, verb. Cf. Dut. *kus*, Ger. *kuss*, a kiss.

Knaue, *n.* a boy, 444, 447; **knaue child** = a man-child or boy, 612. A.S. *cnafa*, *cnapa*, of Celtic origin. See note to line 444.

Knowen, *pp.* known, 689. A.S. *cnáwan*, pt. *cneów*, pp. *cnáwen*.

L

Ladde, *v. pt. pl.* led, 390. A.S. *lædan*, pt. *lædde*. Cf. Dut. *leiden*, Ger. *leiten*.

Lappe, *n.* a wrapper, 585. The M. E. *lappen*, also *wlappen*, is another form of *wrappen*, which is a derivative of *warp*.

Lasse, *adj. pl.* smaller; **lasse and more** = smaller and greater, all, 67. A.S. *læssa* (adj.) less, *læs* (adv.).

Last, *v. pr. s.* lasts, extends, 266. A.S. *læstan*, to observe, to last, originally 'to follow in the track of,' from *lást*, a foot-track.

Lat, *v. imp. s.* let, 162. See **Lete**.

Laughe, *v.* to laugh, 353. A.S. *hlehhan*, *hlihan* (pt. t. *hlóh*). Cf. Dut. *lagchen*, Ger. *lachen*.

Laureat, *adj.* laureate, crowned with laurel, 31. L. *laureatus*—*laurea*.

Leef, *n.* a leaf, 1211. A.S. *leáf*; cog. with Dut. *loof*, Ger. *laub*.

Leet, *v. pt. s.* let, 82. See **Lete**.

Lenger, *adj.* longer, 300; **euer lenger the more** = the longer, the more, 687. A.S. *lengra*, comparative of *lang*.

Lente, *n.* Lent, the forty-days' fast, beginning with Ash Wednesday. The fast is in spring-time, and the old sense is simply spring, 12. A.S. *lencten*, the spring.

Lenuoy, *n.* l'envoy, the epilogue spoken at the close, 1177. Fr. *l'envoi*—*envoyer*, to send.

Lese, *v.* to lose, 508. A.S. *leósan*, pt. *leás*, pp. *loren*; cog. with Dut. *liezen* (seen only in compound *verliezen*), and with Ger. *lieren* (seen in *ver-lieren*).

Lest, *n.* desire, 619. See **Lust**.

Leste, *v. pr. s. subj.* it may please (impers.), 105; *pt. s.* it pleased, 716, 986. A.S. *lystan*, to choose, generally used impersonally.

Leste, *adj.* (superl.) least, 966, *pl.* **leste**, 67. A.S. *læsast*, whence *læst* by contraction.

Lete, *v.* to let, 745; *imp. pl.* **lete**, let, 98. A.S. *lætan*, to let, pt. *leót*, pp. *læten*; cog. with Dut. *laten*, Ger. *lassen*.

Lette, *v. pt. s.* delayed, 389. Used intransitively. A.S. *lettan*, to hinder —*læt*, late.

Lette, *n.* let, hindrance, 300.

Leue, *v.* to leave, 250. A.S. *læfan*, to leave a heritage—*líf*, a heritage—*lifian*, to remain, from which comes *live*.

Leuer, *adv.* liefer, rather, 444. A.S. *leófe*; cf. Dut. *lief*, Ger. *lieb*.

Leueth, *v. pr. s.* believes, 1001. In the M. E. *beleuen* (*beleven*), the prefix *be-* (by) is substituted for the older prefix *ge-*. A.S. *gelýfan*, to believe, hold dear—*ge-*, prefix, and *leóf*, dear.

Leye, *v.* to lay, 193. A.S. *lecgan*, pt. *legde*, pp. *gelegd*; causal of *licgan*, to lie.

Leyser, *n.* leisure, 286. O. Fr. *leisir* (Fr. *loisir*), leisure, originally an infinitive—L. *licere*, to be permitted.

Lief, *adj.* dear, 479. A.S. *leóf*.

Lige, *adj.* liege, 310; *pl.* **liges**, subjects, 67. O. Fr. *lige*, of Teutonic origin. Cf. Ger. *ledig*.

Likerous, *adj.* lustful, sinful, 214. M. E. *lechur*, *lechour*—O. Fr. *lecheor*, one addicted to gluttony and lewdness, literally 'one who *licks* up'—O. Fr. *lecher* (Fr. *lécher*), to lick—Old High Ger. *lechon* (Ger. *lecken*), to lick.

Linage, *n.* lineage, 71, 137, 795. Through Fr. from L. *linea*, a line.

Liuian, the canonist Giovanni di Lignano, 34. See note to line 34.

List, *v. pr. s.* (impersonally) it pleases, 647, 933. A.S. *lystan*, to desire, *lust*, pleasure.

Liuen, *v.* to live, 109. A.S. *lifian*, to live, to remain; cf. Dut. *leven*, Ger. *leben*.

Loked, *v. pt. s.* looked, 340. A.S. *lōcian*, to look.

Loking, *n.* looking, appearance, 514.

Longeth, *v. pr. s.* belongs, 285. A.S. *langian*, to lengthen—*lang*, long. The original sense is to become long, hence to stretch the mind after, to crave, also to apply, belong.

Lordshipe, *n.* lordship, 797. A.S. *hlāford*, a lord (probably for *hlāf-weard*, a loaf ward), *hlāf*, a loaf, and *weard*, a guard.

Lore, *n.* lore, learning, 87, 788. A.S. *lār*, lore; cog. with Dut. *leer*, Ger. *lehre*.

Lorn, *pp.* lost, 1071. A.S. *leōsan*, to lose, pt. *leās*, pp. *loren*.

Louede, *v. pt. s.* loved, 413, 690. The A.S. *lufu*, love, is closely allied to **lief**.

Loueth, *v. imp. pl.* love ye, 370.

Loth, *adj.* loth, unwilling, 364. A.S. *lāth*, from the pt. t. of *līdhan*, to travel.

Low, *adj.* low, humble, 425. Scand.; Icel. *lāgr*, low, Danish *lav*.

Lulled, *v. pt. s.* soothed, 553. A Scand. word, ultimately of imitative origin.

Lumbardye, Lombardy, 72; **West Lumbardye**, 46, 945.

Lust, *v. pr. s.* (impersonally) it pleases, 322. See **List**.

Lust, *n.* pleasure, 80, 968; wish, 658. See **List**.

Lusty, *adj.* pleasant, 59.

Lyght, *n.* light, 1124. A.S. *leōht*, cog. with Dut. and Ger. *licht*.

Lyk, *adj.* like, 257, etc. A.S. *līc*, *ge-līc*; cog. with Ger. *g-leich*, Dut. *ge-lijk*.

Lyken, *v.* to please, 506; *pr. s.* **lyketh**, it pleases, 106, 311, 845, 1031. A.S. *līcian*, to delight, literally 'to be like,' from *līc*, *ge-līc*, like.

Lyklinesse, *n.* probability, 396.

Lymes, *n. pl.* limbs, 682. A.S. *lim*.

Lynage, *n.* lineage, 991. See **Linage**.

Lynde, *n.* a linden-tree, 1211. A.S. *lind*, the tree; cog. with Dut. *linde*, Ger. *linde*.

Lyte, *adv.* a little, 935. A.S. *lyt*, *lytel*, little; cog. with Dut. *luttel*.

Lyues, *n. gen. s.* life's, 308. A.S. *līf*, gen. *līfes*, dat. *līfe*. This gen. is also used adverbially = living, 903.

M

Maille, *n.* mail, armour, 1202. O. Fr. *maille*—L. *macula*, a spot, a hole, mesh of a net.

Manaceth, *v. pr. s.* menaces, 122. O. Fr. *menace*—L. *minacia*, a threat—*minaci-*, stem of *minax*—*minæ*, things threatening to fall.

Maner, *n.* manner, kind of; **maner sergeant** = kind of sergeant, 519; **maner wyse** = kind of way, 605.

Manere, *n.* manner, way, 781, 1176. O. Fr. *maniere*, manner—*manier* (adj.), habitual, allied to *manier*, to handle, *main*, the hand—L. *manus*.

Maried, *v. pt. s.* (transitively) he caused to be married, 1130. Through Fr. from L. *maritare*, to marry—*maritus*, a husband.

Markis, *n.* a marquis, 64; *gen. s.* marquis', 994. O. Fr. *markis*—Low L. *marchensis*, a prefect of the marches—Old Ger. *marcha*, a march or boundary. A *march* in Scotland is a boundary.

Markisesse, *n.* a marchioness, 283, 394, 942, 1014.

Masednesse, *n.* amazement, 1061. M. E. *masen*, to confuse, is of Scand. origin; cf. Icel. *masa*, to prate.

Matere, *n.* matter, subject, 90, 1175. O. Fr. *matere*, *matiere*—L. *materia*.

May, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I may, 304. M. E. *mowen* (infinitive), pr. *may*, pt. *mighte*—A.S. *mugan*, to be able, pr. *mæg*, pt. *mihte*.

Mayde, *n.* a maid, maiden, 257, 377, 446, 779. A.S. *mægden*, *mægedh*, a maiden.

Mayntene, *v. pr. s. imp.* may he main-

tain, 1171. Fr. *maintenir*—L. *manu tenere*, to hold in the hand.

Maystow = mayst thou, 265, 1070.

Meke, *adj.* meek, 141. Scand.; cf. Icel. *mjúkr*, soft, Swedish *mjuk*.

Melodye, *n.* melody, 271. Fr. *melodie*—L. *melodia*—Gr. *melōdia*, a singing, from *mel-os*, a song, and *ōdē*, an ode.

Merie, *adj.* glad, 615. A.S. *merg*, merry, perhaps of Celtic origin. Cf. Irish and Gaelic *mear*, merry.

Merueille, merueille, *n.* marvel, 248, 1186. Fr. *merveille*—L. *mirabilia*, wonderful things, from *mirari*, to wonder.

Meste, *adj.* (superl.) most, 131. A.S. *mæst*.

Mesure, *n.* measure, 256; moderation, 622. O. Fr. *mesure*—L. *mensura*, from *metiri*, to measure.

Mette, *v. pt. pl.* met, 390. A.S. *métan*, to find, meet, formed (with the usual vowel change from *ó* to *é*) from A.S. *mót*, a meeting.

Mille, *n.* a mill, 1200. A.S. *myln, mylen*—L. *molina*, extended from *mola*, a mill.

Mo, *adj. pl.* (comp.) more, 318; **tymes mo** = at more times, at other times, 449; **mo** = more than her, others besides, 1039. A.S. *má*, more in number, perhaps originally an adverbial form like L. *magis*, Ger. *mehr*.

Mordred, *pp.* murdered, 725, 728. A.S. *morthor*, murder, *morth*, death. Cf. Icel. *morth*, Ger. *mord*, and the cog. L. *mors*.

Mordrer, *n.* a murderer, 732.

More, *adj.* (comp.) greater, **more and lesse**, greater and lesser, 940. A.S. *mâra*, a double comp. form, cog. with Icel. *meiri*, Gothic *maiza*.

Mot, 1 *p. s. pr.* I must, 872; **moot**, 172; 2 *p. s. pr. subj.* **mot thou** = mayst thou, 557; *pr. pl.* 2 *p.* **mote**, ye must, 526; *pt. s. subj.* **moste**, might, 550. M. E. *mot, moot*, I am able, pt. *moste, muste*—A.S. *ic mót*, pt. *ic móste*, I must; as if from an infinitive *motan*. Cf. Ger. *müssen*, pr. t. *ich muss*, pt. t. *ich musste*.

Mowe, *v. pr. pl.* may, 530. See **May**.

Murthe, *n.* mirth, 1123. A.S. *myradh, mirhth, mirigth*, mirth—*merg*, merry. See **Merie**.

Myghte, *v. pt. subj.* 1 *p. s.* I could, 638. See **May**.

Myn, *pron.* (possessive) my, 143, 365. A.S. *mín*, gen. of *ic*, I.

N

Naille, *v. imp.* 3 *p. s.* let it nail or fasten, 1184; *pp.* **nailed**, fastened, 29. A.S. *nægel*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *nagel*.

Namely, *adv.* especially, 484, 626. A.S. *nama*, a name; cog. with Dut. *naam*, Ger. *name*, L. *nomen* or *gnomen*, Gr. *onoma*, Sanskrit *nâman*.

Nas = **ne was**, was not, 405, 432. A.S. *næs*, was not.

Nat, *adv.* not, 12, 36, 98, etc. A.S. *nâwiht*, also *náht—ná*, not and *wiht*, a whit.

Nay, *adv.* no, 177; as opposed to yea, 355; **it is no nay** = there is no denying it, 817, 1139. Scand., cf. Icel. *nei*. *Nay* is the negative of *aye*.

Ne, *adv.* not, 4; nor, 363, 1092. A.S. *ne*, not, nor. Cf. Gothic *ni*, Russian *ne*, Irish, Gaelic, and Welsh *ni*, L. *ne* (in *non-ne*), and Sanskrit *na*, not.

Necligence, *n.* negligence, 661. Through Fr. from L. *negligentia*.

Nede, *adv.* (dat. form) needs, 531; (gen. form) **nedes**, 11. A.S. *néd*; cog. with Ger. *noth*, Dut. *nood*.

Neded, *v. pt. s.* it needed, 457.

Needles, *adv.* needlessly, 621; **needles**, 455.

Nekke, *n.* neck, 113. A.S. *hnecca*; cog. with Dut. *nek*, Ger. *nacken*.

Nempned, *v. pt. s.* named, 609. A.S. *nemnan*, to name.

Neuer, *adv.* never, 1090, etc. A.S. *næfre*, from *ne*, not, and *æfre*, ever.

Newe, *adj. def.* new, 841; *adv.* newly, 3, 378. A.S. *niwe, neowe*; cog. with Dut. *nieuw*, Ger. *neu*, etc.

Nil, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I desire not, 646; I will not, 363; *pr. s.* will not, 119.

A.S. *nillan*, short for *ne willan*, not to wish. Cf. L. *nolle*.

Nis = **ne is**, is not, 448.

Noblesse, *n.* nobility, 782. Through Fr. and Low L. forms from L. *nobilis*.

Noght, *adv.* not, 197, &c. See **Nat**.

Non, *adj.* none, 1071. A.S. *nán—ne*, not, and *án*, one.

Norice, *n.* a nurse, 561, 618. O. Fr. *norrice* (Fr. *nourrice*)—L. *nutricem*, acc. of *nutrix*, a nurse, *nutrire*, to nourish.

Norished, *pp.* nourished, brought up, 399.

Norishinge, *n.* nourishing, nurture, 1040.

No thing, *adv.* in no respect, 228, 480.

Noueltee, *n.* novelty, 1004. O. Fr. *noveliteit*—L. *novelitatem*, acc. of *novelitas—novus*, new.

Nowches, *n. pl.* jewels, 382. O. Fr. *nouche*—Low L. *nusca*, a brooch, of Teutonic origin.

Ny, *adv.* nearly; **wel ny** = almost, 82. A.S. *néah; adj. adv.* and *prep.*

Nyght, *n.* night, 354. A.S. *niht, neaht;* cog. with Dut. and Ger. *nacht*, Icel. *nátt*, L. *nox* (stem *noct-*), Gr. *nux* (stem *nukt-*).

O

Obeisaunce, *n.* obedience, 24, 230, 502. O. Fr. *obeisance* (Fr. *obëïssance*)—L. *obedientia, obedire*, to obey.

Obeisant, *adj.* obedient, 66.

Of, *prep.* by, 70; with, 33; for, 180; **of grace** = by his favour, 178. A.S. *of;* cog. with Gr. *apo*, L. *ab*, Icel. Dut. and Gothic *af*, Ger. *ab*.

Office, *n.* duty; **houses of office** = servants' offices, 264. Through Fr. from L. *officium*.

Of-newe, *adv.* anew, 938.

Ofte, *adj. pl.* many, 226; *adv.* often, 722; *adv.* (comparative) ofter, oftener, 215, 620. A.S. *oft;* whence M. E. *ofte*, with added *-e*, and lastly, *ofte-n*, with added *-n;* cog. with Icel. *oft*, Gothic *ufta*, Ger. *oft*.

On, *prep.* on, in, at, 80, 81, etc. A.S. *on;* cog. with Dut. *aan*, Icel. *á*, Danish *án*, Ger. *an*, &c.

Onlofte, *adv.* aloft, 229. Scand., cf. Icel. *á lopt* (pronounced *loft*). The prefix *a* = Icel. *á* = A.S. *on*, in.

Oon, *adj.* one, the same, 711; **oon the fairest** = one who was the fairest, 212; **euer in oon** = continually alike, 602, 677; **many oon**, many a one, 775. A.S. *án;* cog. with L. *un-us*, Icel. *einn*, Dut. *een*, Ger. *ein*.

Otherweyes, *adv.* otherwise, 1072. A.S. *óther*, other, second, is for *anther;* cog. with Dut. and Ger. *ander*, L. *alter* (for *anter*), Sanskrit *antara*, other.

Oueral, *adv.* in all respects, 1048. A.S. *ofer* is cog. with Dut. *over*, Ger. *über*, Gothic *ufar*, Gr. *hyper*, L. *s-uper*.

Oughte, *v. pt. s. subj.* it should behove us, 1150; *pt. s. indic.* it was fit, it was due, 1120. A.S. *ágan*, to owe, the pr. t. is *ic ah*, really an old pt. t.: hence the pt. t. *ic áhte*, from which M. E. *ahte, aughte, oughte*, the modern *ought*.

Our, *adj.* our, 357. A.S. *úre*, of us, gen. pl. of *wé*, we.

Outerly, *adv.* utterly, 335, 639. A.S. *útor*, utter, a compar. of *út*, out.

Outraye, *v.* to become outrageous, 643. O. Fr. *ontrage, oultrage* (Fr. *outrage*)—*oltre* (Fr. *outre*), beyond, with suffix *-age* (= L. *-aticum*)—L. *ultra*, beyond.

Owen, *adj.* own, 504, 652. The M. E. forms are *ayen, awen, owen*—A.S. *ágen*, own, originally pp. of *ágan*, to possess.

Oxenford, Oxford, 1.

Oxes, *n. gen. s.* ox's, 207, 291. A.S. *oxa*, pl. *oxan*, cf. Ger. *ochse*, Dut. *os*.

Oxe-stalle, *n.* ox-stall, 398. A.S. *oxan steal, oxan* being *gen.* of *oxa*, and *steal, stæl*, a station, a stall.

P

Pace, *v. pr. s. subj.* may pass away, 1092. Through Fr. and Low L. from L. *passus*, a step.

Padowe, Padua, 27.

Paleys, *n.* palace, 197. Through Fr. from L. *palatium*, a building on the Palatine hill at Rome.

Panik, a district in Italy, 764, 939.

Parauenture, *adv.* peradventure, 234. Fr. *par*, by, and *aventure*, adventure. See **Auenture**.

Parfitly, *adv.* perfectly, 690. O. Fr. *parfit*, *parfeit* (Fr. *parfait*)—L. *perfectus*, pp. of *perficere*, to complete.

Passed, *pp.* passed, spent, 610; *pr. part.* **passing**, surpassing, 240. See **Pace**.

Pemond, Piedmont, 44.

Penible, *adj.* painstaking, 714. Through Fr. *penible* and *peine*, from L. *pœna*.

Peples, *n. gen. s.* people's, 412. O. Fr. *pueple* (Fr. *peuple*)—L. *populum*, acc. of *populus*, people.

Perce, *v.* to pierce, 1204. Fr. *percer*, through Low L. forms from L. *pertundere*, to thrust through.

Persone, *n.* a person, 73. O. Fr. *persone* (Fr. *personne*)—L. *persōna*, a mask used by an actor, hence a character assumed, from *per*, through, and *sonare*, to sound.

Petrark, Petrarch, 31, 1147.

Peyne, *n.* pain; **vpon peyne** = under a penalty, 586. Fr.—L. *pœna*.

Peyned hir, *pt. s.* (reflexive) took pains, 976.

Pistil, *n.* epistle, 1154. O. Fr. *epistle*, also *epistre*—L. *epistola*—Gr. *epistolē*.

Pitous, *adj.* sad, 1121. O. Fr. *piteus*—Low L. *pietosus*—L. *pietas*.

Playn, *adj.* plain; **in short and playn** = in brief, plain terms, 577. Through Fr. from L. *planus*, flat, evident.

Playne, *n.* a plain, 59. Through Fr. from L. *plānus*, plain, flat.

Plentee, *n.* plenty, 264. O. Fr. *plente*, *plentet*—L. *plenitatem*, acc. of *plenitas*, from *plenus*, full.

Plesance, *n.* pleasure, 501, 658, 663, 672, 873, 959, 964; kindness, 1111. Through Fr. from L. *placere*.

Pley, *n.* play, sport, 10, 11, 1030. A.S. *plega*, a game.

Pleyn, *adv.* plainly, openly, 19, 637.

Pleyne, *v.* 1 *p. pl. pr. subj.* we may complain, 97. Fr. from L. *plangere*, to complain.

Plowman, *n.* a ploughman, 799. M. E. *plouh*, *plow*, also A.S. *ploh*, is a borrowed word, probably Scand. The A.S. word for *plough* is *sulh*. Cf. Icel. *plógr*. Grimm has doubts as to its being really a Teutonic word, and Skeat suspects it to be Celtic; Gaelic *bloc*, a block of wood.

Plye, *v.* to bend, 1169. Through Fr. from L. *plicare*.

Poetrye, *n.* poetry, 33. O. Fr. *poëterie*—L. *poeta*—Gr. *poiētēs*.

Point, *n.* point; **point for point** = in every point, 577. Fr. from L. *punctum*.

Poo, the river Po, 48.

Pope, *n.* the Pope, 741; *gen.* **popes**, 746. L. *papa*, pope, father.

Powerliche, *adj.* poorly, 213, 1055.

Powerte, *n.* poverty, 816. O. Fr. *poverte* (Fr. *pauvreté*)—L. *paupertatem*, acc. of *paupertas*, from *pauper*, poor.

Powre, *adv.* poorly, 1043. O. Fr. *povre*—L. *pauperem*, acc. of *pauper*.

Powrest, *adj.* (superl.) poorest, 205.

Prescience, *n.* foreknowledge, 659. Through Fr. from L. *præscientia*, knowledge beforehand.

Presence, *n.* presence, 1207. O. Fr. *presence*—L. *præsentia*.

Preue, *n.* proof, 787. Fr. *preuve*—Low L. *proba*, a proof—L. *probare*, to test.

Preue, *v.* to test, 699; *pr. s. subj.* **he preue** = that he test, 1152; *pr. s.* **preueth**, proves, 1000, 1155; *pp.* **preued**, approved, 28, 856. O. Fr. *prover*—L. *probare*, to test, try the goodness of.

Preyde, *v. pt. s.* prayed, besought, 548, 765; *pp.* **preyed**, 773. O. Fr. *preier*—L. *precari*, to pray.

Preyere, *n.* prayer, 141. O. Fr. *preiere*—L. *precaria*, fem. of adj. *precarius*, obtained by prayer, from *precari*.

Prikke, *v.* 2 *p. s. subj.* prick, torture, 1038. A.S. *pricu*, *prica*, a point.

Priuee, *adj.* privy, secret, 192, 519. O. Fr. *prive*—L. *privatus*, apart.

Priuitee, *n.* privity, secrecy, 249.

Profred, *pp.* proffered, 152. O. Fr. *proferer*, to produce—L. *pro-ferre*, to bring forward.

Proheme, *n.* a proem, prologue, 43. O. Fr. *proëme*—L. *proœmium*—Gr. *prooimion*, an introduction.

Prydeles, *adj.* free from pride, 930. A.S. *prȳte*, regularly formed (by the usual change from *ú* to *ȳ*) from *prút*, proud.

Prys, pryse, *n.* price, estimation, 1026. O. Fr. *pris*, *preis*—L. *pretium*, price.

Pryuely, *adv.* secretly, 641. See **Priuee**.

Publisshed, *pp.* published, spread abroad, 415, 749. The M. E. *publishen* is formed irregularly from Fr. *publier*—L. *publicare*.

Purposed, *pp.* purposed, 1067. M. E. *purpos*—O. Fr. *pourpos*, *propos*, a purpose—L. *propositum*, neuter of pp. of *pro-ponere*, to propose.

Purveye, *v.* to purvey, to provide, 191. O. Fr. *porvoir* (Fr. *pourvoir*)—L. *pro-videre*, to foresee, to provide.

Put, *pp.* put, 471. A.S. *potian*; according to Skeat, of Celtic origin; cf. Gaelic *put*, to push, thrust, Welsh *pwtio*, to push, Cornish *poot*, to push.

Q

Quail'le, *n.* a quail, 1206. O. Fr. *quaille* (Fr. *caille*)—Low L. *quaquila*, a quail; of Teutonic origin, but ultimately imitative. Cf. Dut. *kwaken*, to croak, to quack.

Quaking, *pr. part.* quaking, 317, 358. A.S. *cwacian*, to quake; allied to *quick*, alive.

Quod, *v. pt. s.* quoth, said, 319, 624, etc. A.S. *cwædh*, pt. t. of *cwedhan*, to say.

R

Rancour, *n.* rancour, malice, 432, 747. Fr. from L. *rancorem*, acc. of *rancor*, spite.

Rather, *adj.* (compar.) sooner, 1169. M. E. *rather* is compar. of *rath*, early—A.S. *hradhe* (*adv.*), quickly, *hrædh* (*adj.*), quick.

Recchelees, *adj.* reckless, 488. A.S. *réce-lēás—récan*, to care; cf. Dut. *roekeloos*.

Receyuen, *v.* to receive, 1151. O. Fr. *recever*—L. *recipere*.

Rede, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I advise, 811, 1205. A.S. *rædan—ræd*, counsel.

Redresse, *v.* to set right, 431. Through Fr. *re-* and *dresser* from L. *re-* and *directus*, pp. of *dirigere*, to direct.

Redy, *adj.* ready, 299. A.S. *ræde*, ready—*ræd-on*, pt. pl. of *rídan*, to ride.

Reed, *adj.* red, 317. A.S. *rēad*; cog. with Ger. *roth*, Dut. *rood*, &c.

Reed, *n.* counsel, 653. A.S. *ræd*, counsel.

Refuseden, *v. pt. pl.* refused, 128. O. Fr. *refuser*, through a Low L. form from L. *refundere*, to pour back, restore.

Reioysed, *v. pt. s.* 1 *p.* (reflexive), I rejoiced, 145. O. Fr. *resjoïs-*, stem of pr. part. of *resjoïr* (Fr. *réjouir*), from *re-*, again, and O. Fr. *esjoïr*, to rejoice—L. *ex-*, very, and *gaudere*, to rejoice.

Rekke, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I care, 1090. A.S. *récan*, to care.

Release, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I release, 153. O. Fr. *relessier* (Fr. *relaisser*)—L. *relaxare*.

Remenant, *n.* a remnant, 869. O. Fr. *remanent*—L. *remanent-*, stem of pr. part. of *remanere*, to remain.

Retenue, *n.* retinue, suit, 270. O. Fr. *retenue*, a body of retainers, fem. of *retenu*, pp. of *retenir*—L. *retinere*.

Rethorike, *n.* rhetoric, 32. Fr. *rhetorique*—L. *rhetorica* (*ars*)—Gr. *hrētorikos*, *hrētōr*, an orator.

Retourneth, *v. imp. pl.* return, 809. Through Fr. from L. *re-* and *tornare*, to turn in a lathe.

Reuel, *n.* revelry, 392, 1123. O. Fr.

revel, reveler—L. *re-bellare*, to rebel.

Reverence, *n.* reverence, respect, 196. Through Fr. from L. *reverentia*.

Reule, *v.* to rule; **reule hir** = guide her conduct, 327. O. Fr. *riule, reule* (Fr. *règle*)—L. *regula—regere*, to rule.

Rewen, *v.* to rue, pity, 1050. A.S. *hreówan;* cf. Ger. *reuen*.

Rewthe, *n.* ruth, pity, 579, 893; a pitiful sight, 562. Of Scand. origin. Cf. Icel. *hrygdh*, ruth; allied to A.S. *hreówan*.

Ringes, *n. pl.* rings, 255. A.S. *hring;* cog. with Dut. and Ger. *ring*, Icel. *hringr*.

Roially, *adv.* royally, 955. O. Fr. *real, roial* (Fr. *royal*)—L. *regalis*, royal.

Roialtee, *n.* royalty, 928. O. Fr. *realte, reialte*—L. *regalitatem*, acc. of *regalitas—regalis*.

Rombel, *n.* rumour, 997. There is a provincial English *rommle* in use = to speak low. Cf. Dut. *rommelen*, to buzz, Danish *rumle*.

Rome, *v. pr.* 1 *p. pl.* we roam, 118. Also *ramen*, allied to A.S. *á-ræman*, to spread out. Cf. provincial *rame, raim*, to stretch, roam.

Rome, Rome, 737.

Rood, *v. pt. s.* rode, 234. See **Ryden**.

Roote, *n.* root, source, base, 58. Scand. Cf. Icel. *rót*, Danish *rod*. Put for *vrót* = *vórt*, allied to Gothic *waurts*, a root, A.S. *wyrt*, a wort, a root.

Roughte, *v. pt. s.* (impersonal) it recked; **him roughte** = he recked, 685. A.S. *récan*, pt. *ic rôhte*.

Route, *n.* a company, 382. Through Fr. from L. *rupta—rumpere*, to break.

Rude, *adj.* rude, rough, 916. Through Fr. from L. *rudem*, acc. of *rudis*.

Rudely, *adv.* rudely, 380.

Rudenesse, *n.* rudeness, 397.

Ryden, *v. pr. pl.* ride, 784; *pt. s.* **rood**, 234. A.S. *rídan*, pt. *rád*, pp. *riden;* cf. Dut. *rijden*, Ger. *reiten*.

Rype, *adj.* ripe, seasonable, 220; *pl.* **rype**, 438. A.S. *rípe*, fit for reaping, *rípe*, harvest—*rípan*, to reap; cf. Dut. *rijp*, Ger. *reif*, ripe.

Ryse, *v.* to rise; 3 *p. s. pr.* **ryseth**, 1108. A.S. *rísan*, pt. *rás*, pp. *risen*.

S

Sad, *adj.* firm, fixed, constant, 693, 754; sober, 220, 237; *pl.* **sadde**, grave, serious, 1002; original sense, 'sated,' hence 'tired,' 'grieved.' A.S. *sæd*, sated. Cf. Ger. *satt*.

Sadly, *adv.* firmly, 1100.

Sadnesse, *n.* constancy, patience, 452.

Salomon, Solomon, 6.

Salte, *adj. pl.* salt, 1084. A.S. *sealt*, originally an *adj.* as in *sealt water*, salt (salted) water. Cf. Icel. *saltr*, Danish and Swedish *salt*, Dut. *sout*.

Saluces, Saluzzo, 44, 63, 414; **Saluce**, 420.

Sauf, *prep.* save, except, 76, 508. Fr. *sauf*—L. *salvus*.

Saue, *v.* to save, to keep, 683; 3 *p. s. imp.* may he save, 505, 1064. Fr. *sauver*—L. *salvare, salvus*, safe.

Saufly, *adv.* safely, 870.

Sayde, Seyde, *v. pt. s.* said, 501, 526, 554, etc. See **Seye**.

Scathe, *n.* scathe, harm, 1172. A.S. *sceadhan*, pt. *scód;* cf. Dut. and Ger. *schaden*. The n. *skaith* is still used in Scotland.

Sclaundre, *n.* slander, ill fame, 722. O. Fr. *esclandre*, earlier form *scandele*, whence *escandle, escandre*, and finally, *esclandre*, with inserted *l*. *Slander* is thus a doublet of *scandal*.

Scourges, *n. pl.* scourges, plagues, 1157. O. Fr. *escorgie* (Fr. *écourgée*), a scourge—L. *excoriata*, 'flayed off,' fem. of the pp. of *excoriare*, to strip the skin off.

Se, *v.* to see, 599, etc.; *pt. s.* **sey**, 1044; *pp.* **seyn**, 280. A.S. *sebn*, pt. *seáh*, pp. *gesegen;* cf. Dut. *zien*, Ger. *sehen*.

Secrely, *adv.* secretly, 763. Through Fr. from L. *secret-us*, pp. of *se-cernere*, to put separate.

Secte, *n.* suite, company, 1172. Through Fr. from Low L. *secta*, a

set of people—L. *sec-*(as in *sec-undus*), base of *sequi*, to follow.

Seeth, *v. pt. s.* seethed, boiled, 227. A.S. *seóðhan*, pt. *seáð*, pp. *soden*. Cf. Ger. *sieden*.

Selde, *adj. pl.* few; **selde tyme** = few times, 146; *adv.* seldom, 427. A.S. *seld*, rare; cog. with Dut. *zelden*, Ger. *selten* (*adv.*).

Sely, *adj.* simple, innocent, 948. A.S. *sælig*, *gesælig*, timely—A.S. *sæl*, time, season; cf. Dut. *zalig*, Ger. *selig*. The original meaning was 'timely,' then 'happy,' 'lucky,' 'innocent,' lastly, 'simple.'

Semblant, *n.* semblance, outward appearance, 928. Through Fr. from L. *simulare*.

Seme, *v.* to seem, appear, 132; *pt. s.* (impers.) **semed**, it seemed, 396. A.S. *séman*.

Sent, *v. pr. s.* sends, 1151. A.S. *sendan*, to send, 3 *p. s. pr.*, *he sent* or *sendeth*; cog. with Dut. *senden*, Ger. *senden*.

Sergeant, *n.* a sergeant, an officer, 519, 524, 575, 596, etc. O. Fr. *sergant*, *serjant*—Low L. *servientem*, acc. of *serviens*, an officer—pr. part. of L. *servire*, to serve. *Sergeant* is thus a doublet of *servant*.

Seruage, *n.* service, 147, 482. Through Fr. from L. *servus*.

Seruede, *v.* 1 *p. s. pt.* I served, 640. Through Fr. from L. *servare*.

Seruisable, *adj.* serviceable, 979.

Seruitute, *n.* servitude, 798. Through Fr. from L. *servitudo*.

Seruyse, *n.* service, 603, 958. Through Fr. from L. *servitium*.

Sette, *v.* to place, 975; *pt. s.* **sette**, cast, 233; put, 382; *pp.* **set**, appointed, 774. A.S. *settan*, causal of *sittan*, to sit.

Sey, *v. pt. s.* saw, 1044. See **Se**.

Seye, *v.* to say; 3 *p. pl. pr.* **sey**, 631; 1 *p. s. pr.* **seye**, 351; 3 *p. pl. pr.* **seyn**, 481. A.S. *secgan*, pt. *ic sægde*, pp. *gesæd*.

Seyn, *pp.* seen, 280, 608; 3 *p. pl. pr.* 481. See **Se**.

Shake, *v.* to shake, 978. A.S. *scacan*, pt. *scóc*, pp. *scacen*.

Shal, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I shall (do so); 1 *p. pl.* **shul**, we must, 38. A.S. *ic sceal*.

Shaltow for shalt thou, 560.

Shapen, *pp.* planned, 275. A.S. *sceapan*, *scapan*, pt. *scóp*, pp. *scapen*; cf. Ger. *schaffen*.

Sholde, *v. pt. s.* ought to, 247, 261; was obliged to, 515. A.S. *sceolde*, pt. of *sceal*.

Shoon, *v. pt. s.* shone, 1124. A.S. *scínan*, pt. *scán*, pp. *scinen*; cf. Ger. *scheinen*.

Shoop, *v. pt. s.* laid plans for, 198; created, 903; contrived, 946. See **Shapen**.

Shredde, *v. pt. s.* shred, cut, 227. A.S. *screádian*, to shred, *screáde*, a piece.

Shul, 38. See **Shal**.

Sikerly, *adv.* surely, 184. M.E. *siker*—L. *securus*, secure; whence also Dut. *zeker*, Ger. *sicher*, &c.

Sikly, *adv.* ill, 625. A.S. *seóc*, sick; cf. Dut. *ziek*, Ger. *siech*.

Siknesse, *n.* sickness, 651.

Sin, *conj.* since, 448. Contracted from A.S. *síth-thám*, written also *síth-than*, after that, from *síth*, late (Ger. *seit*) and *thám*, dat. case of the definite article or demonstrative pron., *the*.

Sit, *v. pr. s.* (impers.) it setteth or suits; **yuel it sit** = it suits ill, 460. A.S. *sittan*, pr. *sit*, pt. t. *sæt*, pp. *seten*.

Site, *n.* site, situation, 199. Through Fr. from L. *situm*, acc. of *situs*, a place.

Skile, *n.* reason, 1152. Scand., cf. Icel. *skil*, a distinction.

Sklendre, *adj. pl.* slender, 1198. Old Dut. *slinder*, thin.

Slake, *v.* to slacken, leave off, 705; to cease, 137; to end, 802; *pr. s.* **slaketh**, assuages, 1107. A.S. *sleacian*, to grow slack—*sleac*, slack.

Slawen, **slayn**, *pp.* slain, 544, 536.

Sleen, *v.* to slay; *gerund*, 1076; *pr. s.* **sleeth**, slays, 628. A.S. *sleán*, contracted form of *slahan*, pt. *slóh*, pp. *slegen*. Cf. Dut. *slaan*, Ger. *schlagen*.

Sleighte, *n.* a contrivance, 1102. Put for *sleighth*—Scand., as in Icel. *slægdh*, slyness, *slægr*, sly.

Slepte, *v. pt. s.* slept, 224. A. S. *slæpan*, *slēpan*, pt. *slēp*; cf. Dut. *slapen*, Ger. *schlafen*.

Slyde, *v.* to slide, 82. A.S. *slīdan*, pt. *slād*, pp. *sliden*.

Smale, *adj. pl.* small, 380, 382. A.S. *smæl*; cf. Ger. *schmal*.

Smerte, *adv.* smartly, 629.

Smerte, *v.* to smart, feel grieved, 353. A.S. *smeortan*; cog. with Dut. *smarten*, Ger. *schmerzen*.

Smit, *v. pr. s.* smites, 122. A.S. *smītan*, pt. *smāt*, pp. *smiten*. Cf. Dut. *smijten*, Ger. *schmeissen*.

Smok, *n.* a smock, 890. A.S. *smoc*—A.S. *smog-en*, pp. of *smēogan*, *smūgan*, 'to creep into,' so called because 'crept into,' or put on over the head.

Smokles, *adj.* without a smock, 875.

Snow-whyt, *adj.* snow-white, 388. A.S. *snāw*, snow, and *whīt*, white.

Sodeyn, *adj.* sudden, 316. O. Fr. *sodain*, *sudain*—L. *subitaneus*—*subitus*, sudden.

Softe, *adv.* softly, 583. A.S. *sōfte*; cf. Ger. *sanft*, soft.

Solempne, *adj.* grand, 1125. O. Fr. *solempne*—L. *solemnem*, acc. of *solemnis*, occurring yearly like a religious rite, from *sollus*, entire, and *annus*, a year.

Somdel, *adv.* partially, 1012.

Somme, *pron. indefinite, pl.* 76. A.S. *sum*, pl. *sume*.

Somwhat, *adv.* in some degree, 579. A.S. *sum hwæt*.

Sondry, *adj.* sundry, 271. A.S. *syndrig*, formed with suffix *-ig* (modern English *-y*), from *sundor* (adv.), asunder.

Sone, *n.* a son, 626, 676, &c. A.S. *sunu*. Cf. Dut. *zoon*, Ger. *sohn*.

Sooth, *n.* truth, 855. A.S. *sōth*, true.

Soothfastnesse, *n.* truth, 796. A.S. *sōthfæst*, where the suffix is the same as in *stead-fast* and *shame-fast*.

Soothly, *adv.* verily, 689. A.S. *sōthlice*, verily.

Sophyme, *n.* sophism, 5. L. *sophisma*—Gr. *sophisma*.

Sore, *adv.* sorely, 85. A.S. *sār*, painful; cog. with Dut. *zeer*.

Soverayntee, *n.* sovereignty, 114.

Soverayn, *adj.* sovereign, 112. O. Fr. *soverain*—Low L. *superanus*, chief—L. *super*, above.

Souked, *pp.* sucked, 450. A.S. *sūcan*, pt. *seāc*, pp. *socen*.

Soun, *n.* sound, 271. Fr. *son*—L. *sonum*, acc. of *sonus*, sound.

Sours, *n.* source, origin, 49. O. Fr. *sors*, *surse*, from the fem. of the pp. of O. Fr. *sordre* (Fr. *sourdre*—L. *surgere*, to rise.

Space, *n.* an opportunity, 103. Fr. *espace*—L. *spatium*.

Spak, *v. pt. s.* spake, 295. See **Speken**.

Specially, *adv.* especially, 312. Short for *especial*. O. Fr. *especial*—L. *specialis*—*species*, a kind.

Speken, *v.* to speak, 547; *pt. s.* **spak**, 295; *imp. pl.* **speketh**, 175. Late A.S. *specan*, A.S. *sprecan*, pt. *spræc*, pp. *sprecen*.

Spille, *v.* to destroy, 503. A.S. *spillan*, *spildan*, to destroy, *spild*, destruction.

Spousaille, *n.* espousal, wedding, 180; **spousall**, 115. Through Fr. from L. *sponsalia*, nuptials.

Spoused, *pp.* espoused, 3, 386. O. Fr. *espouser*—L. *sponsa*, fem. of pp. of *spondere*, to promise.

Spradde, *v. pt. s.* spread, 418, 722. A.S. *sprædan*; cf. Ger. *spreiten*.

Springing, *n.* beginning, 49. A.S. *springan*, to spring up, pt. *sprang*, pp. *sprungen*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *springen*.

Squieres, *n. pl.* squires, 192. O. Fr. *escuyer*—Low L. *scutarius*, a shield-bearer—L. *scutum*, a shield.

Stable, *adj.* stable, fixed, 663, 931. Through Fr. from L. *stabilis*.

Stake, *n.* a stake, 704. A.S. *staca*, a stake.

Stalle, *n. dat.* a stall, 207, 291. A.S. *steal*, *stæl*, gen. *stealles*, dat. *stealle*.

Stalked, *v. pt. s.* walked, 525. A.S.

stælcan, to walk warily, allied to *stealc*, high.

Stedfastly, *adv.* assuredly, 1094.

Stedfastnesse, *n.* steadfastness, 699. A.S. *stedefæst*, firm in its place—*stede*, place, *fæst*, firm.

Stente, *v.* to cease, leave off, 734, 972; *pt. s.* **stente**, 1023. See **Stinte**.

Sterres, *n. gen. pl.* of the stars, 1124. A.S. *steorra*, a star.

Stert, *pp.* started, 1060. Allied to Dut. *storten*, to rush, Ger. *stürzen*, also to Old Dut. *steerten*, to flee, perhaps originally 'to turn tail,' and thus allied to A.S. *steort*, a tail, which appears in *stark-naked*, a corruption of M. E. *start-naked*, literally 'tail-naked.'

Stille, *adv.* stilly, quietly, 1077. A.S. *stille*, still—*steal*, *stæl*, a stall.

Stinte, *v.* to stint, cease, 1175; to end, 747. The M.E. forms are *stintan*, *stentan*—A.S. *styntan* in *for-styntan*—*stunt*, stupid.

Stonde, *v.* to stand, to be fixed, 346; *imp. pl.* **stondeth**, stand, 1195; *pt. s.* **stood**, 318; *pt. pl.* **stoden**, 1105. A.S. *standen*, p.t. *stôd*, pp. *standen*; cog. with Dut. *staan* (pt. *stond*), Ger. *stehen* (pt. *stand*).

Stoon, *n.* a stone, a gem, 121, 1118. A.S. *stân*. Cf. Dut. *steen*, Ger. *stein*.

Stoor, *n.* a store, 17. O. Fr. *estor*, *estoire*, store, provisions—L. *instaurare*, to construct.

Stormy, *adj.* violent, boisterous, 995. A.S. *storm*; cog. with Ger. *sturm*.

Stounde, *n.* hour, time, 1098. A.S. *stund*, *stond*, a space of time. Cf. Ger. *stunde*, an hour.

Streon, *n.* strain, stock, breed, 157. A.S. *strýnd*—*strýnan*, to beget.

Strepeth, *v. pr. s.* strips, 894; *pr. pl.* **strepen**, 1116. A.S. *strýpan*, to strip; cog. with Dut. *stroopen*, to plunder.

Streyne, *v.* to constrain, 144. O. Fr. *estraindre*, to wring hard—L. *stringere*.

Strook, *n.* a stroke, 812. A.S. *strâc*, pt. t. of *strîcan*, to strike.

Stryue, *v.* to strive, 170. O. Fr. *estriver*, to strive, *estrif*, strife; of Scand. origin, as in Icel. *stríðk*, strife.

Studien, *v.* to study, 8; 2 *p. pl. pr.* **studie**, 5. O. Fr. *estudie* (Fr. *étude*)—L. *studium*, zeal, study.

Sturdinesse, *n.* sternness, 700.

Sturdy, *adj.* cruel, 698, 1049. O. Fr. *estourdi*, amazed, also rash, pp. of *estourdir*, to amaze; of doubtful origin.

Style, *n.* mode of writing, 18, 41. Through Fr. from L. *stylus*, a way of writing.

Subgets, *n. pl.* subjects, 482. O. Fr. *suiet*, *suiect* (Fr. *sujet*)—L. *subjectus*, pp. of *subjicere*.

Subtilitee, *n.* a device, 691. Through Fr. from L. *subtilitatem*, acc. of *subtilitas*—*subtilis*.

Suffisance, *n.* sufficiency, 759. Fr. *suffisance*—L. *sufficere*.

Suffisant, *adj.* sufficient, 960.

Suffrance, *n.* endurance, 1162. O. Fr. *sofrance*—*soffrir*—L. *sufferre*.

Suffreth, *v. imp. pl.* suffer, 1197.

Suffyse, *v.* to suffice, 740. Through Fr. *suffis-*, base of *suffis-ant*, pr. part. of *suffire*, to suffice—L. *sufficere*.

Supposinge, *n.* a supposition, 1041. Fr. *supposer*—L. *sub* and Fr. *poser*, to place. See note to line 1041.

Suspecious, *adj.* suspicious, 540. O. Fr. *suspezion* (Fr. *soupçon*)—L. *suspicionem*, acc. of *suspicio*—*suspicere*.

Suspect, *n.* suspicion, 905. Through Fr. from L. *suspectus*, pp. of *suspicere*, to suspect.

Sustenance, *n.* sustenance, support, 202. Through Fr. from L. *sustinentia*—*sustinere*.

Suster, *n.* sister, 589, 640. Skeat refers it to Scand., as in Icel. *systir*, Swedish *syster*; cog. with A.S. *sweostor* and Ger. *schwester*.

Swappe, *v.* to strike, 586; *pt. s.* (intransitive) **swapte**, fell down suddenly, 1099. Closely allied to **sweep** and **swoop**. The A.S. *swâpan*, to sweep along, pt. t. *swêop*, pp. *swâpen*; is cog. with Icel. *sveipa*, Ger. *schweifen*, etc.

Swelwe, *v. pr. s. subj.* swallow, 1188.

Formed from A.S. *swolg-en*, pp. of *swelgan*, to swallow; cf. Dut. *zwelgen*, Ger. *schwelgen*.

Swepe, *v.* to sweep, 978. This verb corresponds to the causal form of A.S. *swâpan*, to swoop.

Swere, *v.* to swear; *pt. pl.* **swêren**, 176, 2 *p.* **swore**, 496; *pp.* **swore**, sworn, 403. A.S. *swerian*, pt. *swôr*, pp. *sworen*; cog. with Dut. *zweren*, Ger. *schwören*.

Swich, *pron.* such, 174, 183, 336, etc. Other M. E. forms, *swulc*, *swilc*—A.S. *swylc*. Cf. Dut. *zulk*, Ger. *solch*.

Swollen, *pp.* swollen with pride, 980.

Sworen, *v. pt. pl.* swore, 176. See **Swere**.

Swough, *n.* a swoon, 1100. M. E. *swowen*, *swoghen*, to swoon, a weak verb, closely allied to the strong verb, A.S. *swôgan*, to move noisily, the pp. of which (*ge-swôgen*) actually occurs with the sense 'in a swoon.' Allied to *swugh*.

Swowning, *n.* a swooning, a swoon, 1080. See foregoing word.

Syked, *v. pt. s.* sighed, 545. Both forms, *syken* and *sighen*, occur in M. E. A.S. *sîcan*, to sigh, pt. *sâc*, pp. *sicen*.

Sythe, *n. pl.* times; **ful ofte sythe** = full oftentimes, 233. A.S. *sîth* (for *sinth*), a journey, time, whence *sîdhian*, to travel; cf. Icel. *sinni* (for *sinthi*), a walk, a time, and Gothic *sinth*, a time.

T

Taffraye, for *to affraye*, to frighten, 455. O. Fr. *effraier*—Low L. *ex-frediare*, to break the peace—L. *ex* and Old High Ger. *fridu* (Ger. *friede*), peace.

Take, *pp.* taken, 702. M. E. *taken*, pt. *tok*, pp. *taken*, from Scand. Cf. Icel. *taka*, pt. *tôk*, pp. *tekinn*, to seize.

Tale, *n.* a long story, 383. A.S. *talu*, a number, also a narrative. Cf. Dut. *taal*, Icel. *tal*, speech, Ger. *zahl*, number.

Talyghte, for *to alyghte*, to alight, 909. See **Alyghte**.

Tamende, for *to amende*, to redress, 441. Through Fr. from L. *emendare*, to free from faults—*e*, out of, and *mendum*, a fault.

Tarraye, for *to arraye*, to arrange, 961. See **Array**.

Tassaille, for *to assaille*, to assail, 1180. O. Fr. *assailler*, to attack—L. *ad*, to, and *salire*, to leap, rush forth.

Tassaye, for *to assaye*, to test, 454, 1075. See **Assay**.

Teer, *n.* a tear, 1104; *pl.* **teres**, 1084. A.S. *têor*, *têar*; cog. with Icel. *târ*, Ger. *zähre*, etc.

Tellen, *v.* to tell, 26; *imper. s.* **telle**, 9, 15, etc. A.S. *tellan*, pt. *tealde*, pp. *teald*—*talu*. See **Tale**.

Tembrace, for *to embrace*, to embrace, 1101. O. Fr. *embracer*, to grasp in the arms—O. Fr. *em-* for *en-* (= L. *in*) and *brace*, the grasp of the arms—L. *brachia*, the arms.

Tendrely, *adv.* tenderly, 686. Through Fr. from L. *tener*, tender, originally thin, allied to *tenuis*, thin.

Tendure, for *to endure*, to endure, bear, 756, 811. See **Endure**.

Tentifly, *adv.* attentively, 334. Formed from the base of *tend*, derived through Fr. from L. *tendere*, to stretch, a word allied to *tenere*, to hold.

Thadversitee, *n.* the adversity, 756. O. Fr. *advers*, often *avers* (Fr. *averse*)—L. *adversus*, pp. of *advertere*, to turn to.

Than, *adv.* then, 127, 212, etc. A.S. *thonne*, closely allied to *thone*, acc. s. masc. of the demonstrative pron. *the*; cf. Ger. *denn*.

Thanke, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I thank, 1088. A.S. *thanc*, *thonc*, favour; cog. with Dut. *dank*.

Thenke, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I think, 641; *imp. pl.* **thenketh**, 116. M. E. *thenken*, to think, was originally distinct from the impersonal v. *thinken*, to seem. The pt. t. of *thenken* should have been *thoghte*, and of *thinken*, *thughte*; but both were

merged in the form *thoughte*, modern English *thought* (Skeat). *Thenken* is from A.S. *thencan*, pt. *thohte*.

Ther, *adv.* there, 147, 152, 173, etc.; where, 1207; **there as**, there where, 198. A.S. *thær*, *ther*; cog. with Dut. *daar*.

Therbifore, *adv.* beforehand, 689, 729.

Therefore, *adv.* on that account, 445, 1141. *Therefore* = A.S. *fore thære* = because of the (thing), some fem. *n.* being understood.

Ther-of, *adv.* with respect to that, 644.

Thewes, *n. pl.* qualities, 409. A.S. *thæwas*, pl. of *thæw*, habit. In Shakspeare and modern English, *thews* means sinews or strength. The Scotch *thewless* means 'wanting strength.'

Thilke, *pron.* (demons.) that, 278, 360, 892, 948, etc. 'A.S. *thylc*, *thylic*, from *thỹ*, instrumental case of *se*, *seo*, *thæt*; and *lic*, like.

Tho, *adv.* then, 544.

Thonke, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I thank, 830. See **Thanke**.

Thought, *n.* thought, anxiety, 80. A.S. *thoht*, *ge-thoht—thoht*, pp. of *thencan*, to think.

Thoughte, *v. pt. s.* (impersonal) seemed, 406. See **Thanke**.

Threshfold, *n.* threshold, 288, 291. *Thresh-old* = *thresh-wold*, literally 'the piece of wood threshed or beaten by the tread of the foot'—A.S. *therscwald—thersc-an*, to thresh; and *wald*, wood.

Throp, *n.* a thorp or village, 199; *dat.* **Thrope**, 208. A.S. *thorp*; cog. with Ger. *dorf*, Dut. *dorp*, etc.

Throwe, *n.* a short period, 450. A.S. *thrâg*, *thrâh*, a short time.

Thryve, *v.* to thrive, 172. Scand.; as in Icel. *thrífa*, to grasp, hence *thrífask* (with suffix *-sk* = *-sik*, self), to seize for one's self, to thrive.

Thurgh, *prep.* through, 69, 137. A.S. *thurh*; cog. with Dut. *door*, Ger. *durch*.

Tonge, *n.* the tongue, 1184. A.S. *tunge*; cf. Icel. *tunga*, Dut. *tong*, Ger. *zunge*.

Tonne, *n.* a tun, 215. A.S. *tunne*; cf. Dut. *ton*, Ger. *tonne*.

To-race, *v. pr. pl. subj.* may scratch to pieces, 572. For prefix *to-*, see **Torent**, and note to line 572. *Race* comes through Fr. from L. *radere*, to scrape.

Torent, *pp.* rent in pieces, 1012. Prefix *to-* (= Ger. *zer-*, Gothic and L. *dis-*), meaning 'in twain,' 'apart,' is common in M. E. *Rent*, from A.S. *hrendan*. See note to line 572.

Tormentinge, *n.* a tormenting, 1038. O. Fr. *torment*—L. *tormentum*, an engine for throwing stones.

Trance, *n.* a trance, 1108. Through Fr. from L. acc. *transitum*, a passing away.

Translated, *pp.* changed, 385. Through Fr. from Low L. *translatare*—L. *translatus*, pp. of *transferre*.

Travaille, *n.* travail, toil, 1210. Fr. *travail*, through provincial and Low L. forms from L. *trabes*, a beam pierced with holes to confine the feet.

Tree, *n.* tree, wood, 558. A.S. *trêo*, *treow*; cog. with Icel. *tré*, etc.

Tretys, *n.* a treaty, 331. O. Fr. *tretis*, *traitis*, a thing well handled, *traiter*—L. *tractare*, to handle.

Trewely, treweliche, *adv.* truly, 53, 804. A.S. *trêowe*, *trýwe*, true; cf. Ger. *treu*, Dut. *treow*.

Trouble, *adj.* troubled, 465. O. Fr. *trubler* (Fr. *troubler*)—L. *turbula*, diminutive of *turba*, a crowd.

Trowe, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I trow, believe, 471. A.S. *trêowian* formed from n. *trêowa*, trust; cog. with Icel. *trúa*, to trow, *trúr*, true.

Twelf, *adj.* numeral, twelve, 736. A.S. *twelf*, *twelfe*; cog. with Dut. *twaalf*, Ger. *zwölf*.

Tweye, *adj.* two, 476; **Tweyne**, 650. A.S. *twegen* (masc.), *twâ* (fem.), *twâ* or *tu* (neut.), two; cog. with Dut. *twee*, Ger. *zwei*.

Twinkling, *n.* a twinkling, 37. A.S. *twinclian*, to twinkle, a frequentative of *twink*, which appears in M. E. *twinken*, to wink.

Tydinge, *n.* tidings; *pl.* **tydinge**, 752. M. E. *tidinde*, later *tidinge*, afterwards *tidings*—Scand.; as in Icel. *tidhindi*, neut. pl., things that happen—*tíðk*, time; cf. Danish *tidende*, Dut. *tijding*, Ger. *zeitung*.

Tymes, *n. pl.* times, 226. A.S. *tíma*; cog. with Icel. *tími*, Danish *time*, etc. From the same ultimate root as **Tide**.

V

Vane, *n.* a vane, 996. A.S. *fana*, a small flag; cog. with Dut. *vaan*, Ger. *fahne*.

Vanitee, *n.* vanity, 250. Through Fr. from L. acc. *vanitatem*—*vanus*, empty.

Venyse, Venice, 51.

Vermyne, *n.* vermin, 1095. Through Fr. from L. *vermis*, a worm.

Verray, *adj.* very, true, 343. O. Fr. *verai* (Fr. *vrai*)—L. *verac-*, stem of *verax*—*verus*, true.

Vertu, *n.* virtue, 216. Through Fr. from L. acc. *virtutem*—*vir*, a man.

Vesulus, Monte Viso, 47, 58.

Vgly, *adj.* ugly, 673. Scand.; cf. Icel. *uggligr*, fearful—*ugg-r*, fear, and *ligr* = A.S. *-lic*, like.

Visage, *n.* face, 693. Through Fr. from L. acc. *visum*—*videre*, to see.

Vitaille, *n.* victuals, 59, 265. O. Fr. *vitaille*—L. neut. pl. *victualia*—*victus*, pp. of *vivere*, to live.

Vncertayn, *adj.* uncertain, 125. Negative *un-* and *certain*—O. Fr. *certein*—L. *certus*.

Vndar, *prep.* under, 22, 113, etc.

Vndern, *n.* the time from 9 A.M. to mid-day, 260, 981. Derived from A.S. *under*, among, between.

Vnderstonde, *v.* to understand, 20. A.S. *understandan*, to stand under or among, hence to comprehend—A.S. *under*, under, and *standan*, to stand.

Vndertake, *v.* to undertake to say, 803. Compounded of *under* and M. E. *taken*. See **Take**.

Vndigne, *adj.* unworthy, 359. Negative *un-* and *digne*, through Fr. from L. *dignus*.

Vndiscreet, *adj.* indiscreet, 996. Negative *un-* and O. Fr. *discret*—L. *discretus*, pp. of *dis-cernere*.

Valyk, *adj.* unlike, 156. Negative *un-* and *lic*, commonly *ge-lic*.

Vnethe, *adv.* uneasily, with difficulty, 384, 403. Negative *un-* and A.S. *eáðk*, easy.

Vnnethes, *adv.* with difficulty, 318, 892.

Vnreste, *n.* unrest, 719. Negative *un-* and A.S. *rest*, *ræst*; cog. with Dut. *rust*, Danish and Swedish *rast*.

Vnsad, *adj.* unsettled, 995. See **Sad**.

Vnto, *prep.* unto, 11, 97, etc. *Unto* is not found in A.S.

Vntressed, *pp.* unarranged, 379. Fr. *tresser*, to plait—Low L. *tricia*, variant of *trica*, a plait—Gr. *tricha*, threefold, a common way of plaiting hair.

Vouche, *v.* to vouch, 2 *p. s. pr. subj.* **vouche**, 306. O. Fr. *voucher*—L. *vocare*—*voc-*, stem of *vox*, voice.

Voyden, *v.* to get rid of, 910; *imp. s.* **voyde**, depart from, 806. O. Fr. *voide*, empty (Fr. *vide*)—L. *viduum*, acc. of *viduus*, empty.

Voys, *n.* voice, report, 98, 629, 1087. O. Fr. *vois* (Fr. *voix*)—L. *vocem*, acc. of *vox*, voice.

Vpon, *prep.* upon, 163. A.S. *uppon*—*upp*, up, and *on*, on.

Vs, *pron.* us, 9, 13, 14, etc. A.S. *ús*, dat. pl. of *wé*, we; the acc. pl. is *ús*, *úsic*.

Vs self, *pron.* ourselves, 108.

Vsage, *n.* usage, 693, 785. Through Fr. from L. *usus*, use—*uti*, to use.

Vtterest, *adj.* (superl.) utterest, 787. Formed from A.S. *út*, out; comp., *útor*, *uttor*, outer, hence superl., *útterest* = *outerest*.

W

Waille, *v.* to wail, 1212. Scand., as in Icel. *væla* (formerly *wæla*), literally 'to cry woe'—*væ*, *vei* (interj.), woe!

Waiteth, *v. pr. s.* watches, 708. O. Fr. *waiter*, to watch, *waite*, a watchman—Old High Ger. *wahta*, a

watchman, *wakhen* (Ger. *wachen*), to be awake.

Wal, *n.* a wall, 1047. A.S. *weall*—L. *vallum*.

Walter, Walter, 421, 631, etc.

Wane, *v.* 2 *p. pl. pr.* wane, 998. A.S. *wanian*, to wane—*wan*, *won*, deficient.

Wantoun, *adj.* wanton, 236. M. E. forms, *wantoun* and *wantowen*—M. E. *wan-*, prefix, 'lacking'—A.S. prefix *wan-*, and *towen*—A. S. *togen*, pp. of *téon*, to draw.

Waterpot, *n.* a waterpot, 290. A.S. *wæter*; cog. with Dut. *water*, Ger. *wasser*; and M. E. *pot*, from Celtic, as Welsh *pot*.

Wedlok, *n.* wedlock, 115. A.S. *wedlâc*—*wed*, a pledge, and *lâc*, a sport, also a gift to a bride.

Weep, *v. pt. s.* wept, 545. M. E. *wepen*, pt. *weep*, *wep*—A.S. *wépan*, to cry aloud, *wóp*, a clamour.

Wel, *adv.* well, certainly, 215, 635, 892. A.S. *wel*; allied to **Will**.

Wele, *n.* wealth, 474, 842, 971. A.S. *wela*, weal—*wel* (adv.), well.

Welkne, *n.* the welkin, the sky, 1124. Other M. E. forms are *welkin*, *welkene*, *welken*, *wolken*—A.S. *wolcnu*, pl. of *wolcen*, a cloud.

Welle, *n.* a well, 215, 276. A.S. *welle*—*weallan*, to well up.

Wende, *v.* to wend, go; *pr. pl.* **wende**, go, 189; 1 *p. s. pr. subj.* **wende**, 307; *pp.* **went**, 276. A.S. *wendan*. See note to line 276.

Wene, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I ween, 1174; *pt. pl.* **wenden**, 751; *pp.* **wend**, 691. A.S. *wénan*, to imagine—*wén*, expectation.

Were, *v. pt. s. subj.* were, should, 850; 2 *p. pl. pr.* **weren**, were, 846. A.S. *wæs*, I was; *wære*, thou wast; pl. *wæron*, were; subj. s. *wære*, pl. *wæron*.

Werk, *n.* work, 107. A.S. *weorc*, *werc*.

Werketh, *v. imp. pl.* act, 504. A.S. *weorc*, *werc*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *werk*.

Werking, *n.* deeds, actions, 495.

Wexe, *v.* 2 *p. pr. pl.* wax, increase, 998; *pt. s.* **wex**, 317. A.S. *weaxan*, pt. *weóx*, pp. *geweaxen*; cog. with Dut. *wassen*, Ger. *wachsen*.

Wey, *n.* way, 273. A.S. *weg*; cog. with Dut. and Ger. *weg*, Icel. *vegr*.

Whan, *adv.* when, 1092, etc. A.S. *hwænne*.

What, *pron.*, 79; (interrog.), why, 383; **what that** = whatever, 165; **what** = who, 1019. A.S. *hwæt*, neut. of *hwá*, who.

Whenne, *adv.* whence, 588. A.S. *hwanan*, whence.

Wher, *adv.* where, whether, 60, etc.; **wher as** = where that, 829. In M. E. *wher* is very common for *whether*. A.S. *hwær*, *hwar*, where; allied to *hwá*, who. *Whether* is from A.S. *hwædher*, which of two.

Wherein, *adv.* in which, 376.

Which, *pron.* 52, 217; **which that** = who, 205. A.S. *hwilc*, *hwelc*, short for *hwí-lîc*—*hwí*, instrumental case of *hwá*, who, and *lîc*, like.

Whider, *adv.* whither, 588. A.S. *hwider*, *hwæder*.

Whos, *pron. relative, gen.* whose, 770. A.S. *hwæs*, gen. of *hwá*, who.

Whyl, *adv.* while, 166, etc.

Whylom, *adv.* once, formerly, 64, 846. A.S. *hwílum*, at times, dat. pl. of *hwíl*, a time.

Wight, *n.* a wight or person, 240, 400, 769, 1109. A.S. *wiht*, a creature. Cf. Dut. *wicht*, a child; Ger. *wicht*, Gothic *waihts* (fem.), *waikt* (neut.), a whit.

Wikke, *adj.* wicked, 785. Originally a pp. with the sense 'rendered evil,' from the obsolete adj. *wikke*, which is connected by Grimm with A.S. *wicca*, a wizard, the fem. of which is *wicche*, a witch. *Wicked* would thus mean literally 'bewitched.'

Wikkedly, *adv.* wickedly, 723.

Wille, *n.* will, desire, 326, 953; **Wil**, 176. A.S. *willa*—A.S. *willan*, to will. Cf. Dut. *wil*, Icel. *vili*, Ger. *wille*.

Wille, *v.* to will, 721. A.S. *willan*, pt. t. *wolde*; cog. with Dut. *willen*, Icel. *vilja*, Ger. *willen*, etc.

Willing, *s.*, desire, 319. Originally pr. part. of the above verb.

Willingly, *adv.* willingly, 362.

Wisly, *adv.* certainly, 822. A.S. (adj., ultimately used as adv.) *gewis*, certain, from prefix *ge-* and adj. *wis*, certain; allied to *wise* and *wit*, from the root of *witan*, to know; cf. Dut. *gewis* (adj. and adv.), Ger. *gewiss*, certainly.

Wiste, *v.* 1 *p. s. pt.* I knew, 814. M. E. (infinitive) *witen*, pr. t. *I wot*, with 3 *s. he wot* (later *wotteth*), and 2 *p. thou wost* (later *wottest*), pl. *witen*; *pt. t.* **wiste**, *pp. wist*. A.S. *witan*, pr. t. *ic wât, thú wást, he wât*, pl. *witon*; pt. t. *wiste*, also *wisse*, pl. *wiston*, pp. *wist*. Gerund *tó witanne* (modern English, *to wit*).

Wit, *n.* intelligence, 459. A.S. *wit*—*witan*, to know.

With, *prep.* with, 186, 230, 489, etc. A.S. *widh*; cf. Icel. *vidh*, etc.

With-outen, *prep.* without, 661; **without**, *adv.* outside, 332. A.S. *withútan*, prep. and adv.

Witing, *n.* knowledge, 492.

Wo, *adj.* sad, 753.

Wo, *n.* woe, 139. A.S. *wâ*, interj. and adv.; cf. Icel. *vei*, Dut. *vee*, Ger. *weh*.

Wol, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I desire, 646; 2 *p.* **wolt**, wilt, 314; 1 *p. s. pt.* **wolde**, I should like, 238, 638; *pt. pl.* **wolde**, wished, 1144. M. E. *willen*, pt. *wolde*—A.S. *willan*, pr. *wile* (2 p. *wilt*), pt. *wolde*.

Wommanhede, *n.* womanhood, 239, 1075. The corresponding A.S. word is *wífhâd*. See note to line 239.

Woned, **wont**, *pp.* wont, accustomed, 339, 844. This is the proper use of wont, as *pp.* of *won*, to dwell, to become used to. It afterwards became used as an adj. and then as a n., and its origin being forgotten, the pp. suffix *-ed* was again added, producing the modern form *wont-ed*, in which the suffix occurs twice over = *won-ed-ed* (Skeat). *Woned* is pp. of M. E. *wonien*—A.S. *wunian*, to dwell. See note to line 339.

Worse, *adv.* (compar.) worse, 675. A.S. *wyrs* (adv.), *wyrsa* (adj.).

Worshipe, *v.* to respect, 166. A.S. *weorthscipe*, honour—*weorth* (adj.), honourable, with suffix *-scipe* (English *-ship*), allied to *shape*.

Worshipful, *adj.* worthy of worship or honour, 401.

Wortes, *n. pl.* worts, roots, 226. A.S. *wyrt*; cf. Ger. *wurz*.

Wostow, for *wost thou*, knowest thou, 325. See **Wiste**.

Wot, *v.* 1 *p. s. pr.* I know, 814; *pr. s.* **wot**, knows, 274. See **Wiste**.

Woxen, *pp.* waxed, grown, 400. See **Waxe**. M.E. *waxen*, pt. *wox*, *wex*, pp. *woxen*, *wexen*—A.S. *weaxan*, pt. *weóx*, pp. *geweaxen*; cog. with Dut. *wassen*, Ger. *wachsen*.

Wrappe, *v.* to wrap, 583. M. E. *wrappen* is also written *wlappen* (whence our **lap**); allied to **warp**, from A.S. *wearp*, a warp in weaving—*wearp*, pt. of *weorþan*, to cast, throw.

Wringe, *v.* to wring the hands, 1212. A.S. *wringan*, to press, pt. *wrang*; cog. with Dut. *wringen*, Ger. *ringen*.

Writen, *pp.* written, 761. M. E. *writen*, pt. *wroot*, pp. *writen*—A.S. *wrítan*, pt. *wrât*, pp. *writen*. Cf. Dut. *rijten*, Ger. *reissen*, to cut.

Wrothe, *adj. pl.* angry, 437. A.S. *wrâdh* (adj.), wroth; allied to **writhe**, A.S. *wríthan*, to twist about, pt. *wrâdh*, pp. *wridhen*.

Wroughte, *v. pt. s.* contrived, made, 463, 1152. M. E. *werchen*, *wirchen*, pt. *wroughte*, pp. *wrought*—A.S. *wyrcan*, also *wircan*, *wercan*, pt. *worhte*, pp. *geworht*.

Wyde, *adv.* widely, 722. A.S. *wíd*; cog. with Dut. *wijd*, Ger. *weit*.

Wyfly, *adj.* wifelike, 429, 919, 1050. A.S. *wíflic*. A.S. *wíf* (neut. n.), a woman, pl. *wíf*; cog. with Dut. *wijf*, Ger. *weib*.

Wynde, *v.* to wind, 583. M. E. *winden*, pt. *wand*, *wond*, pp. *wunden*—A.S. *windan*, pt. *wand*, pp. *wunden*. Cf. Dut. and Ger. *winden*.

Wyne, *n. dat.* wise, way, 673. A.S. *wīse*, way; originally 'wiseness,' from *wīse* (adj.), wise; cf. Dut. *wijs*, Ger. *weise* (n.).

Wyne, to wive, take a wife, 140, 173. A.S. *wīfian*, to take a wife—*wīf*, a wife. Cf. Dut. *wijf*, Ger. *weib*.

Wynes, *n. gen. s.* wife's, 599.

Y

Yaf, *v.* 1 *p. s. pt.* I gave, 861; *pt. s.* **yaf**, 193, 203. See **Yiue**.

Yate, *n.* gate, 1013. M. E. forms, *gate, yate*—A.S. *geat*, a gate, opening; cog. with Dut. *gat*, a hole, gap. Originally 'a way to *get* in,' from A.S. *gæt*, pt. t. of *gītan*, to get.

Ybore, *pp.* born, 158, 310, 484, also borne, 443; **yborn**, 72; **yboren**, 626. A.S. *beran*, pp. *geboren*.

Ydel, *adj.* idle, 217. A.S. *īdel*, vain; cog. with Dut. *ijdel*, Ger. *eitel*.

Ydressed, *pp.* dressed, 381. See **Dresse**.

Ye, *adv.* yea, 355. The simple affirmative; *yes* is a strengthened form often accompanied by an oath in our early writers. A.S. *gēá*; cog. with Dut. Swedish and Ger. *ja*, Icel. *já*.

Ye, *n.* eye, 37; **at yē** = to sight, 1168; *pl.* **yen**, 669. M. E. *eye, eighe*, pl. *eyes, eyen* (whence *eyne*)—A.S. *ēage*, pl. *ēagan*. Cf. Dut. *oog*, Icel. *auga*, Ger. *auge*.

Ye, *pron.* ye, 508. A.S. *ge*, nominative; *ēower*, gen.; *ēow*, dat. and acc.

Yeer, *n.* a year, 402; *pl.* **yeer**, years, 610. A.S. *geār, gēr*, pl. *gēar*; cog. with Dut. *jaar*, Ger. *jahr*.

Yelden, *v.* to yield, 843. A.S. *gieldan, gildan*, pt. t. *geald*, pp. *golden*, to pay, give up; cog. with Dut. *gelden*, to pay, Ger. *gelten*, to be worth.

Yerde, *n.* yard, rod, 22. A.S. *gyrd, gierd*, a rod; cog. with Dut. *garde*, Ger. *gerte*.

Youen, *pp.* given, 758. See **Yiue**.

Yfere, *adv.* together, 1113.

Yfeyned, *pp.* feigned, 529. O. Fr. *feindre*—L. *fingere*, to form, feign.

Yfostred, *pp.* fostered, 213. A.S. *fōstrian—fōstor*, food.

Yit, *adv.* yet; **as yit** = hitherto, 120. A.S. *git, get, giet*, moreover.

Yiue, *v.* to give, 1034; *pr. s.* **yiueth**, gives, 93; *pr. s. imp.* **yiue**, may he give, 30. M. E. *geuen, yeuen*, pt. *yaf* or *gaf*, pp. *yiuen, gifen, youen*—A.S. *gīfan*, pt. *geaf*, pp. *gīfen*.

Ylyke, *adv.* alike, 602, 754. A.S. *gelīce*.

Ymagining, *pr. part.* imagining, 598. Through Fr. from L. *imaginari*.

Ynde, India, 1199.

Ynough, *adv.* enough, 75, 365. The *y* or *ge-* here is a mere prefix. A.S. *genōh, genōg*, pl. *genoge—geneáh*, it suffices; cog. with Dut. *genoeg*, Ger. *genug*.

Yond, *adv.* yonder, 1199. A.S. *geon*, yon.

Yonge, *adj. def.* young, 777; *voc.* 1093. A.S. *geong*; cog. with Dut. *jong*, Ger. *jung*, etc.

Yore, *adv.* formerly, 1140; for a long time, 68. A.S. *geāra* (adv.), formerly, literally 'of years,' originally gen. pl. of *geār*, a year.

Your, *pron.* your, 128, 567, etc. A.S. *ēower*, your, originally gen. of *ge*, ye.

Yow, *pron.* you, 105, 154, etc. A.S. *ēow*, dat. and acc. of pronoun *ge*.

Yprayed, *pp.* asked to come, 269. M. E. *preyen*—O. Fr. *preier* (Fr. *prier*)—*precari*, to pray.

Yronne, *pp.* run, 214. A.S. *rinnan*, pt. *rann*, pp. *gerunnen*; cog. with Ger. and Dut. *rennen*.

Yset, *pp.* set, 409. A.S. *settan*, to set, to make to sit, causal of *sittan*, to sit. Cf. Icel. *setja*, Ger. *setzen*, Dut. *zetten*.

Yuel, *adv.* ill, 460, 965. A.S. *yfel*, (adj. and n.); cog. with Dut. *euvel*, Ger. *übel*, Icel. *illr*.

Ywedded, *pp.* wedded, 771. A.S. *weddian*, to pledge, betroth—A.S. *wed*, a pledge; cog. with Icel. *vedh*, Ger. *wette*, etc.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

1. Write a short account of the life of Chaucer, with the names and supposed dates of his principal poems.

2. What do you understand by Middle English, and what are its characteristics as distinguished from earlier and later English?

3. What were the principal varieties of English in Chaucer's time, and what are the chief distinguishing marks of each?

4. What were the case-endings of Chaucer's nouns?

5. Give the etymology of the following: *Abayst, acquyte, agast, alayes, algate, alwey, array, assay, astonied, aswowne, asure, bachelrye, blesse, carie, cote* (a coat), *entraille, felaw, hest, housbond, kepe, lent, lordshipe, markis, outraye, owen, persone, plowman, quaille, rewthe, sclaundre, scourge, sely, sergeant, sikerly, sklendre, sleighte, solempne, sooth, souereyn, spousaille, swelwe, swough, therefore, threshfold, throp, tyding, vnnethe, voyden, waille, wantoun, wight, wikke,* and *ynough.*

6. Explain fully the following words and phrases: *In euery maner wyse; al had hir leuer haue born a knaue child; ful ofte sythe; hath doon yow kepe; it is no drede; as beth of bettre chere; vndern; a furlong wey or two; flokmele; herbergage; threshfold; tretys; nowches; barm; a lyues creature; dayes fele; after his fader day; more and lesse; yuel biseye; gan his herte dresse; auentaille; four yeer; but it be falle of newe; dere ynough a Iane; mo; Chicheuache.*

7. Name the various significations of the final *e* in Chaucer with regard to nouns and adjectives, both as marking derivation and inflection.

8. Give some account of the sources from which Chaucer derived the story of the *Clerkes Tale.*

9. Give some account of the measure of the *Clerkes Tale,* and of the *Envoy.*

10. What is the history of the words: *Wonted,* the *to-* in 'all to-brake,' *arn, knaue, thewes, thilke,* and *sely?*

11. Discuss the adverbs in Middle English; what are their terminations, and what is the origin of these?

12. What is Chaucer's place among English poets, and to what qualities as a poet does he owe it?

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